

## **SCCC – CONTRASTS OF TWO BELIEVERS**

### **S - Scriptures**

“Then the Philistines seized him, gouged out his eyes and took him down to Gaza. Binding him with bronze shackles, they set him to grinding grain in the prison” Judges 16: 21

### **C – Consideration**

Sampson, like John the Baptist was born through a miracle. Both had sterile mothers, and both were set apart from their mother’s womb to serve God. In Sampson’s narrative, the angel of the Lord appeared to his mother explaining to the woman about the child “You will become pregnant and have a son whose head is never to be touched by a razor because the boy is to be a Nazirite dedicated to God from the womb. He will take the lead in delivering Israel from the hands of the Philistines.” What a tremendous privilege! There are very few people in the Scriptures with such an honor. He grew up, but unlike John the Baptist, his behavior dishonored his parents and his God. At the end of his twentieth year judging the nation, he was in the hand of Delilah, who “After putting him to sleep on her lap, she called for someone to shave off the seven braids of his hair, and so began to subdue him. And his strength left him. Then she called, “Samson, the Philistines are upon you!” He awoke from his sleep and thought, “I’ll go out as before and shake myself free.” But he did not know that the Lord had left him.

### **C – Commitment**

What a terrible end for a man who had received so much anointing from God. Sampson had killed a lion with his bare hand. He fought and struck down one thousand Philistine warriors with a fresh jawbone of a donkey, however, one foreign woman, whom he couldn’t even have a relationship with, defeated Sampson. And, worse was that his sinful behaviors made the Lord depart from him. Years ago I heard from a fellow believer about the danger of the three “Gs” “Gold, “Glory,” and “Girl.” against God’s leaders. Sampson fell on the third one. In the end, I found some contrasts between the two Nazirites. John the Baptist rebuked King Herod because of sexual immorality, Sampson practiced sexual immorality; John the Baptist was in prison because he didn’t compromise God’s words, Sampson went blind in prison because he despised God’s word; John the Baptist, beheaded, lost his life because his great love for God, Sampson, lost his life, because of his bitterness. He might had repented before, but his last prayer was not an act of repentance, “Sovereign LORD, remember me. Please, God, strengthen me just once more, and let me with one blow get revenge on the Philistines for my two eyes.”

### **C – Call**

Heavenly Father, help me to honor You with the gifts You have trusted to me. Deliver me from greed, pride, and lust. Help me to be faithful like John the Baptist was, and to avoid the sinful actions of Sampson. Lord, I would rather lose my head for Your glory, than to lose my eyes to the glory of Your enemies. I pray this, in Jesus’ name. Amen.