



# TRANSFORMED

DEVOTIONS CONNECTING TEENS TO CHRIST

**When Delilah saw that (Samson) had told her everything, she sent word to the rulers of the Philistines, “Come back once more; he has told me everything.” So the rulers of the Philistines returned with the silver in their hands. 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. Now the rulers of the Philistines assembled to offer a great sacrifice to Dagon their god and to celebrate, saying, “Our god has delivered Samson, our enemy, into our hands.” When they stood him among the pillars, Samson said to the servant who held his hand, “Put me where I can feel the pillars that support the temple, so that I may lean against them.”**

*Judges 16:18-26*

## Humiliation

One of the toughest lessons in life is that some things can never be undone. The teenager who takes the Sixth Commandment lightly may learn the hard way that some reputations can’t be restored, some STI’s can’t be cured, and no pregnancy can ever be reversed. A young person who disregards the Fourth Commandment on a Friday night in the hopes of having some harmless fun may learn that disobeying dad and mom can lead to a life restrained to a hospital bed, or even worse, a grave. Many people know far too well the hard lesson of breaking the Eighth Commandment, something sent into cyberspace can stay posted there forever. Humiliation is such an unforgiving experience!

Ask Samson if life teaches hard lessons. Think of all the harsh words the Philistines spoke as they mocked and spit on him because of things he could not undo! Think about all the words people spoke of him back home, words which would have broken his heart: “Oh, we thought he was going to be our hero!” Think about all the relationships he lost—including his relationship with the Lord. Just look into his face! See the empty sockets where his eyes once were. Samson would tell you that embracing his physical desires was not worth the price of humiliation.

Such lessons are better learned from God’s Word, don’t you think? Why learn life lessons the hard way when you can simply grow in the knowledge of God, the giver of life? Why learn of extreme humiliation by experience when you can learn of the humiliation Christ endured in your place to save you? Why not learn from the blood of Christ shed for you, blood which not only cleanses and saves you, but blood that exalts you to a life free from all disgrace?

**PRAYER: Heavenly Father, I thank you for making me a hero for this world by applying Jesus’ work to me through Holy Baptism. Help me to always take comfort in my baptism—that you saved me there. Keep me also from thinking that my baptism is the end of the story. Cause me to see that baptism means living a heroic life daily by drowning my old self and living new for you, forgiven and righteous. Amen.**