

Confined Creator – SSM

My artist friend was bedridden for several weeks. As I tried to comfort her and minister to her, I considered how active she normally was and how this confinement must have been such a severe struggle for her. She was not able to sit or stand on her own. She lay in bed for several weeks not being able to perform the creative work that she was normally involved in doing, and which was such a vital part of her existence. She was a frustrated artist now – a confined creator. It may be hard for us to understand how difficult that is for a person used to exuding a continual flow of artistic expression.

Somehow I thought of Samson, not so much as a creator, but a man of tremendous power that was constrained for a time after being betrayed by Delilah¹. The Philistines had tried again and again to bind him so that he was powerless, but he had broken free each time². But finally he gave in to Delilah's nagging and ended up captured and the subject of derision by his enemies³. At an opportune time, though, he burst free from this captivity with a great victory over them, though he died in the process⁴.

A somewhat similar constriction of tremendous creative power occurred when Christ took the form of man and came to this earth⁵. While here, He was severely limited in His capability to perform creative activity – after being intimately involved with the creation of the universe. Think about how deeply He must have felt this confinement.

He was constrained even more when he was bound to the cross, and also suffered great derision from people around Him. He did no real creative work there, except the overarching salvation of mankind. Which, of course, could be the greatest creative act of all.

1. see Judges 16
2. Judges 16:5-16
3. Judges 16:25
4. Judges 16:30
5. Philippians 2:5-11