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**Much Love!**

Pastor Ed

**Title:** Love is Blind

**Text:** Judges 16

**Target:** What you chase will consume you and change you; For better or for worse.

1. **SNAPSHOT OF SAMSON'S SENSUALITY:** *"Samson went to Gaza, and there he saw a prostitute, and he went in to her."* Judges 16:1
  - a. **Compelled by a Brazenness:** *"Gaza"* (Vs.1)
  - b. **Consumed by Lustfulness:** *"prostitute"* (Vs. 1)
  - c. **Counters with Fierceness:** *"took hold of the doors of the gate of the city and the two posts, and pulled them up, bar and all, and put them on his shoulders and carried them to the top of the hill that is in front of Hebron."* (Vs.3)
  
2. **SECRETS OF SAMSON'S STRENGTH:** *"After this he loved a woman in the Valley of Sorek, whose name was Delilah."* Judges 16:4
  - a. **Scheme of Seduction:** *"And the lords of the Philistines came up to her and said to her, "Seduce him, and see where his great strength lies, and by what means we may overpower him, that we may bind him to humble him. And we will each give you 1,100 pieces of silver."* Judges 16:5
    - i. **All for Love:** *"great strength" + "overpower"* (Vs.5)
      1. **Samson's Love:** Delilah *"delicate or to weaken"* (Vs. 4)
      2. **Delilah's Love:** *"And we will each will give you 1,100 pieces of Silver"* (Vs.5)
    - ii. **All for Lies:** *"So Delilah said to Samson, "Please tell me where your great strength lies, and how you might be bound, that one could subdue you."* Judges 16:6
      1. **Bind me with:** *"seven fresh bowstrings"* (Vs. 7)
      2. **Bind me with:** *"new ropes"* (Vs. 11)
      3. **Bind me with:** *"weave the seven locks of my head with the web and fasten it tight with the pin"* (Vs. 13)
    - iii. **All is Lost:** *"If my head is shaved, then my strength will leave me, and I shall become weak and be like any other man."* (Vs. 17)
  - b. **Pattern of Presumption:** *"I will go out as at other times and shake myself free." But he did not know that the Lord had left him.* (Vs.20)
  
3. **SHAME OF SAMSON'S SIN:** *"And the Philistines seized him and gouged out his eyes and brought him down to Gaza and bound him with bronze shackles. And he ground at the mill in the prison."* Judges 16:21
  - a. **Pain and Suffering:** *"seized", "gouged", "bound"* (Vs. 21)
  - b. **God is Mocked:** *"Now the lords of the Philistines gathered to offer a great sacrifice to Dagon their god and to rejoice, and they said, "Our god has given Samson our enemy into our hand."* (Vs. 23)
  - c. **Enemy is Entertained:** *"And when their hearts were merry, they said, "Call Samson, that he may entertain us." So they called Samson out of the prison, and he entertained them. They made him stand between the pillars."* (Vs. 25)

4. **SURRENDER IN SAMSON'S SUPPLICATION:** *"Then Samson called to the Lord and said, "O Lord God, please remember me and please strengthen me only this once, O God, that I may be avenged on the Philistines for my two eyes." (Vs. 28)*

- a. **His Death:** *"Let me die with the Philistines. Then he bowed with all his strength, and the house fell upon the lords and upon all the people who were in it." (Vs. 30)*
- b. **His Deliverance:** *"Then his brothers and all his family came down and took him and brought him up and buried him between Zorah and Eshtaol in the tomb of Manoah his father. He had judged Israel twenty years." (Vs. 31)*

**Takeaway:** It is never too late to make your life count for something, someone, or most of all, our Savior. (Hebrews 11:32-34)