

11/12/14

Samson, The Self-Willed Man
Judges 14:1-4

The most important decision a person will ever make is to except or reject Jesus, as their Lord and Savior for it will affect them for all eternity.

The second most important decision a person will ever make is who they marry, affecting the remainder of their life on earth.

Samson the 12th judge had been born according to the prophecy, now grown up the Spirit of God had begun to move upon him at Mahaneh Dan between Zorah and Eshtaol, when he decided to marry a non-believer, a Philistine woman.

* Tragically many Christians with great spiritual potential like Samson for the things God, but never accomplished them because they were self-willed, choosing for themselves things that were clearly contrary to the word of God.

John tells us of three ways all testings and temptations come to us.

* “For all that *is* in the world--the **lust** of the flesh, the **lust** of the eyes, and the pride of life--is not of the Father but is of the world. And the world is passing away, and the **lust** of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever.” 1Jn. 2:16-17

Eve confirms this when Satan tempted her.

* “So when the woman **saw** that the tree *was* good for food, that it *was* **pleasant to the eyes** and a tree **desirable to make *one* wise**, she took of its fruit and ate. She also gave to her husband with her, and he ate.” Gen. 3:6

We want to look at the compromise of Samson to marry a pagan woman of the Philistines, which unfolds for us in three scenes: Judges 14:1-4

- I. Scene one: the lust of the eye. vs. 1
- II. Scene two: the lust of the flesh. vs. 2
- III. Scene three: The pride of life. vs. 3-4

I. Scene one: the lust of the eye. vs. 1

A. The man Samson went where he should not have gone. vs. 1a

* “Now Samson went down to Timnah.”

1. The man Samson is presented as a contradiction to his name.

a. Samson “Shimshon”, means “like the sun”.

1) The light of the sun helps dispel the darkness of the night.

2) The light of the sun, is needful for the existence of life.

b. Samson instead chose to walk in disobedience to God and His word, darkness.

1) He will defile himself with a dead body, the carcass of a lion. vs. 6

- 2) He will eat the defiled honey in the lion's carcass. vs. 8-9a
 - 3) He will give some of the honey to his parents, defiling them, withholding the information. vs. 9b-e
 - 4) He will partake of drink at his wedding feast. vs. 10
* All of these broke his Nazirite vow, which was for life!
2. The man Samson went down to Timnah. vs. 1a
- a. Timnah was a Philistine town.
 - 1) Timnah means "portion".
 - 2) A town in the hill country of Judah.
 - b. The reference to "went down" is to the geographical descent to the city of Timnah.
 - 1) The distance being about four miles east of Zorah, the home of Samson.
 - 2) The phrase "went down", appears five times in the chapter, revealing Samson felt at home in the enemies camp, a friend of the world. vs. 1, 5, 7, 10, 19
 - 3) But depicts what really happens when we go to the world, we "go down" spiritually.
 - 4) Samson spent all his life in the close vicinity of his home town,

the furthest being Ashkelon and Gaza.

- B.** The man Samson gave in and pursued what caught his eye. vs. 1b
* "and saw a woman in Timnah of the daughters of the Philistines."
1. Samson was disarmed by the sight of this woman.
 - a. Samson saw a woman.
 - 1) The word saw "ra'ah" means to perceive, observe, consider and give attention to her.
 - 2) This is natural, there is nothing wrong in this, in and of itself.
 - 3) God created Adam and Eve to establishing a heterosexual relation between a man and a woman to repopulate the earth.
 - 4) When God brought Eve to Adam, he said, "This *is* now bone of my bones And flesh of my flesh; She shall be called **Woman**, because she was taken out of Man." Gen. 2:23
 - 4) Men are moved more by what they see, than what they feel.
 2. Samson's disobedience was in yielding to the attraction of this pagan women.
 - a. This should have been his first check in obedience to God.

- 1) It is not the first look that comes to our eye of what is prohibited by God that is the problem.
 - 2) It is the second, third and thereafter that will entice us to ignore the first check, ensnaring us.
 - 3) Samson went beyond the test by God to tempting himself.
- * “Let no one say when he is tempted, “I am tempted by God”; for God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does He Himself tempt anyone. But each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed. Then, when desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, brings forth death. Do not be deceived, my beloved brethren.” Ja. 1:13-15
- b. This woman was a daughter of the Philistines.
 - 1) This Philistine cutie caught the eye of powerful and feared Samson, causing him to drooled all over himself.
 - 2) The Philistines were their constant enemies.
 - 3) This union of being unequally yoked had the highest prohibition of being pursued.
 - 4) Samson fell in love with the pagan woman.

Illustration

No Christian man or woman has ever married an unbeliever, if they have been obedient to not hang out with unbelievers for their constant friends.

Application

1. The believer in Christ is married to Christ, until God brings them their husband or wife.
 - a. We are his bride.
 - b. Jesus is our groom
 - * “For I am jealous for you with godly jealousy. For I have betrothed you to one husband, that I may present *you as* a chaste virgin to Christ. But I fear, lest somehow, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, so your minds may be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ.” 1Cor. 11:1-3; 2Cor. 6:14-18
2. The believer in Christ has no business spending the majority of their time with unbelievers in the world.
 - a. We will become accustomed to the vile speech and life-style.
 - b. We will slowly become like them, lowering the standards of Christ.
 - c. We will end up living like them, while still going to church or not go to church at all.
 - * “Beloved, do not **imitate** what is evil, but what is good. He who does good is of God, but he who does evil has not seen God.” 3Jn. 11

3. The believer is to date only Christians due to the immorality of the unbeliever in the world.

- a. The unbeliever morality is all together different than the believer.
- b. The unbeliever does not believe in sexual purity, this applies to both male or female today.
- c. The unbeliever does not believe their body, mind and soul belongs to God.
 - 1) “This I say, therefore, and testify in the Lord, that you should no longer walk as the rest of the Gentiles walk, in the futility of their mind, having their understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God, because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart; who, being past feeling, have given themselves over to lewdness, to work all uncleanness with greediness.” Eph. 4:17-19
 - 1) “For since the creation of the world His invisible *attributes* are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, *even* His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse, because, although they knew God, they did not glorify *Him* as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened.” Rom. 1:20-21
 - 2) “Therefore God also gave them up to uncleanness, in the lusts of their hearts,

to dishonor their bodies among themselves, who exchanged the truth of God for the lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen. For this reason God gave them up to vile passions. For even their women exchanged the natural use for what is against nature. Likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust for one another, men with men committing what is shameful, and receiving in themselves the penalty of their error which was due. And even as they did not like to retain God in *their* knowledge, God gave them over to a debased mind, to do those things which are not fitting.” Rom. 1:24-28

Scene one, Samson gave in to the lust of the eye!

II. Scene two: the lust of the flesh. vs. 2

- A. Samson could not wait to tell his parents about the woman he was in love with. vs. 2a
 - * “So he went up and told his father and mother,”
1. He probably could not stop thinking about her.
 - a. The distance was not far, about four miles, even though it was an ascent, I am sure he go there fast.

- b. He should have been recognizing that that woman he desired was sin in the eyes of God, but he was not.
 - c. He should have been grieved in his heart in disobeying the word of God, but he was not.
2. He was not even thinking about God, but only himself.
- a. A major character flaw for Samson.
 - b. For him, it was all about him.
 - c. He does things just because he can and wants to, being carnal.
 - 1) The woman at Timnah pleased him, so he decided to marry her in spite of knowing God's will and his Nazirite call. Judges 14:10
 - 2) He was obligated to pay his debt, so he gave in to his rage and killed 30 Philistines to meet that debt. Judges 14:19
 - 3) He sought to justify his revenge because of his disappointment resulting from his self-will. Judges 15:3
* "He that has no rule over his own spirit is like a city that is broken down, and without walls." Prov. 25:28

B. Samson dishonored his parents with what he believed to be good news. vs. 2b-c

- * "saying, "I have seen a woman in Timnah of the daughters of the Philistines."
- 1. He told them he had been captivated by a certain woman in Timnah.
 - a. The phrase "I have seen a woman", indicates his strong attraction.
 - 1) This should have been his first check.
 - 2) Bringing every thought into captivity, in obedience to Christ. 2Cor. 10:4-5
 - b. The usual custom was that the parents were the one who initiated the arrangement of a marriage.
 - 1) They probably searched their minds to who they knew in Timnah, who was of Israel?
 - 2) They were stumped, who could it be? Gen. 28:1-2; 24:34-38;34:4
 - 2. He declared the remaining words, which were worst than the first, a bombshell, "of the daughters of the Philistines."
 - a. The Philistines were the enemies of Israel.
 - 1) Shamgar had killed 600 Philistines with an ox goad and delivered Israel. Judges 3:31
 - 2) Israel had been corrupted by the Philistines to the worship of their gods. Judges 10:6

- 3) God had handed Israel over to the hands of the Philistines. Judges 10:7
- b. The parents of Samson knew what the Angel of the LORD had told them regarding Samson.
 - 1) He was to be a Nazirite from birth till death. Judges 13:5-7, 13-14
 - 2) He was to begin to deliver Israel out of the hands of the Philistines. Judges 13:5e
- 3. He ordered his parents to go and make the arrangements for him to marry the Philistine woman. vs. 2d-e
 - * “now therefore, get her for me as a wife.”
 - a. Samson flat out commanded his parents to be part of his compromise in marriage.
 - 1) Samson is not asking for advice or permission, if he should marry this woman.
 - 2) Samson is telling his parents, he is going to marry this woman.
 - 3) Samson’s parents must have been taken back!
 - b. Samson was doing certain things by this command to his parents.
 - 1) He was denying all of his preparation and enabling by God as the 12th judge of Israel.

- 2) He was rejecting his call of a Nazirite till death.
- 3) He was ignoring the clear will of God for his life.
- c. Samson was asking his parents certain thing be his command to them.
 - 1) For them to disobey God.
 - 2) For them to ignore the revelation of the Angel of the LORD.
 - 3) For them to not be so self-righteous.

Illustration

David is the classic example of the first look being ignored, inflaming his passions to have full reign, lead to suffering and pain for the rest of one’s life.

Application

- 1. I have seen many Christian sons and daughters be just like Samson.
 - a. Having been raised in a godly home.
 - b. Having the benefit of godly parents.
 - c. Having the privilege of being taught the word of God in their church.
 - d. Having the edacity to believe that their parents are going to be excited and happy for them.
 - * “If you are **wise**, you are **wise** for yourself, And *if* you scoff, you will bear *it* alone.” Prov. 9:12

2. I wish you could listen to all the problems of Christians that marry unbelievers, being self-willed.
- a. Some of them start having problems at the wedding.
 - b. Others at their honeymoon.
 - c. Still others as soon as the honeymoon was over.
 - d. Others for the rest of their lives and may end up divorced.
 - 1) “He who sows iniquity will reap **sorrow**, And the rod of his anger will fail.” Prov. 22:8
 - 2) “The heart knows its own **bitterness**, And a stranger does not share its joy.” Prov. 14:10
3. Let me give you some advice as to some things that you should divulge and ask of the one you are going to marry.
- a. Now prior to entering the engagement stage, it is no one’s business about your past, but once you ask or are asked to marry, you need to be honorable, truthful and prepared that the person might not want to marry after being honest.
 - b. The fact that you have failed sexually.
 - c. The fact that you have been married before and have children, children out of wedlock or abortions.
 - d. The fact that you have been divorced.
 - e. The fact that you have had a STD.
 - f. The fact that you cannot have children.

- g. The fact that you have had a sex gender change.
 - h. The person having this information, will then have a choice, if they want to follow through in marriage or not.
 - i. The person being denied any of these or lied to prior to marriage, can and often experience the sense of deception, betrayal and devastation.
 - j. No one knows how a person is going to react to a situation, too often it destroys trust in the marriage and give Satan a foothold.
 - k. It is always best to deal with such things before marriage to avoid, needless suffering and destruction of a person, causing great difficulties in the marriage.

* “So it came to pass in the morning, that behold, it *was* Leah. And he (Jacob) said to Laban, “What is this you have done to **me**? Was it not for Rachel that I served you? Why then have you **deceived me**?” Gen. 29:25
4. Too many unequally yoked marriages, as well as some Christian marriages are the result of lust, not love.
- a. Lust can’t wait to be satisfied.
 - b. Love waits to be satisfied.

* “I charge you, O daughters of Jerusalem, By the gazelles or by the does of the field, Do not stir up nor awaken love Until it **pleases**.” Song Sol. 2:7

Scene two, Samson gave in to the lust of his flesh!

III. Scene three: The pride of life. vs. 3-4

- A. Samson immediately was responded to by his parents in objection to his order and compromise. vs. 3
1. His parents rebuked him sharply for his arrogant pride thinking he knew better than God. vs. 3
 - a. God had commanded his people to marry their own, “Then his father and mother said to him, “*Is there no woman among the daughters of your brethren, or among all my people*” vs. 3a-b
 - 1) One believing in the true and living God.
 - 2) One worshipping the same true and living God.
 - 3) One raising children to believe in the true and living God.
 - b. God had commanded His people to not marry the people of the land, “that you must go and get a wife from the uncircumcised Philistines?” vs. 3c-d
 - 1) A violation to the word of God, “When the LORD your God brings you into the land which you go to possess, and has cast out many nations before you, the Hittites and

- the Girgashites and the Amorites and the Canaanites and the Perizzites and the Hivites and the Jebusites, seven nations greater and mightier than you, and when the LORD your God delivers them over to you, you shall conquer them *and* utterly destroy them. You shall make no covenant with them nor show mercy to them. “Nor shall you make marriages with them. You shall not give your daughter to their son, nor take their daughter for your son. For they will turn your sons away from following Me, to serve other gods; so the anger of the LORD will be aroused against you and destroy you suddenly.” Duet. 7:1-3
- 2) The phrase “uncircumcised Philistines” declared the disgust and disappointment, as well as the vileness of the Philistines.
2. The stern arrogant rebellious decision of Samson is confirmed to his father. vs. 3e-b
 - a. He ordered him a second time to go make the arrangement,” And Samson said to his father, “Get her for me.” vs. 3e-f
 - 1) Samson believed he knew better than God.

- 2) Samson believed he knew better than his father.
 - 3) Yet his father seems to have caved in to Samson, as he is present at the feast. vs. 10
 - * **“Pride goes before destruction, And a haughty spirit before a fall.”** Prov. 16:18
 - b. He revealed he was only concerned with his own worldly pleasure, “for she pleases me well.” vs. 3g
 - 1) Literally it means she is right in my eyes.”, also in verse seven.
 - 2) He was headstrong and willful to do what he wanted to.
- B.** Samson was solely responsible for the course and direction of his life, not God. vs. 4
- 1. The commentary on the tragic occasion is not to be misunderstood, “But his father and mother did not know that it was of the LORD--that He was seeking an occasion to move against the Philistines.” vs. 4a-b
 - a. It does not mean that God decreed Samson to be unequally yoked in marriage.
 - b. It does not mean that God was behind the compromise of the marriage.

- c. It means only that his parents were ignorant that God was seeking an opportunity against the Philistines.
 - d. It means that God would still use him against the Philistines.
 - * Samson would only begin to deliver Israel from the Philistines, David would fully deliver Israel.
2. The particular period of oppression is indicated, “For at that time the Philistines had dominion over Israel.” vs. 4c
- a. Samson would kill one thousand Philistines with a jawbone of a donkey. Judges 15:15-16
 - b. Samson would kill more Philistines at his death by bringing down the temple of Dagon, than he had killed in his life. Judges 16:30

Illustration

When Dan Rather asked then President Bill Clinton why he would risk his marriage and presidency by his sexual encounter with Monica Lewinsky, Bill Clinton replied, “I think I did something for the worst possible reason---just because I could....just about the most indefensible reason that anybody could have for doing anything. When you do something just because you could.” NBC evening news 2004

Application

1. Today there is a growing disdain for the wisdom of older people and are presented on Television, commercial and media at large, as not knowing anything, while children and young people are towered as the wisest!

- a. “Wisdom *is* with **aged** men, And with length of days, understanding.” Job 12:12
- b. “The tongue of the **wise** uses knowledge rightly, But the mouth of fools pours forth foolishness.” Prov. 15:2
- c. “The ear that hears the rebukes of life Will abide among the **wise**.” Prov. 15:31
- d. “The **wise** in heart will be called prudent, And sweetness of the lips increases learning.” Prov. 16:21

2. There will be those believers that will want you to agree or go along with their sin or compromise to God.

- a. You are to not to be indifferent to their sin and say nothing.
* “Open rebuke *is* better Than love carefully concealed. Faithful *are* the wounds of a friend, But the kisses of an enemy *are* deceitful.” Prov. 27:5-6
- b. You are to confront them out of love, to turn them from their sin or compromise.
* “Brethren, if anyone among you wanders from the truth, and someone turns him back, let him know that he who turns a sinner from the error of his way will save

a soul from death and cover a multitude of sins.” Ja. 5:19-20

3. In our journey through life, as believer we need to take advantage of the wisdom of those who have fought the fight much longer than us.

- a. “Do not be wise in your own eyes; Fear the LORD and depart from evil. It will be health to your flesh, And strength to your bones.” Prov. 3:7-8
- b. “For by wise counsel you will wage your own war, And in a **multitude** of counselors *there is* safety.” Prov. 24:6
- c. “A man who isolates himself seeks his own desire; He rages against all **wise** judgment.” Prov. 18:1
- d. “See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil.” Eph. 5:15-16

Scenes three, Samson gave in to the pride of life!

Conclusion

The compromise of Samson to marry a pagan woman of the Philistines has unfolded for us in three scenes:

- I. Scene one: Samson gave in to the lust of the eye!
- II. Scene two: Samson gave in to the lust of the flesh!
- III. Scene three: Samson gave in to the pride of life!