

# Judges 16

Jesus

**Some people have to learn the hard way**

## I. Samson and Delilah Here we go Again...

1 Now Samson went to Gaza and **saw a harlot there**, and went in to her.

- Samson crosses line once again
- Samson in enemy territory again...same sin again

**Saw a Harlot...Slept with the Harlot**

Blinded by Self-Will

**Proverbs 6:26** [Satan uses sexual sin; i.e. fornication, adultery, pornography] to **reduce a man to a crust of bread**; to prey upon his precious life. [Don't get near it...] 27 Can a man take fire to his bosom, and his clothes not be burned? 28 **Can one walk on hot coals, and his feet not be seared?**

- **Nazarite:** Samson was called to be set-apart to God...as are we

**1 Corinthians 6:15** [Christ is in us] Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Shall I then take the members of Christ and make them **members of a harlot**? Certainly not!

**2 Timothy 2:22 Flee also youthful lusts** [led by raging hormones]; but pursue righteousness, faith, love, peace with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart.

- **Run from sexual sin...**Joseph ran from Potiphar's wife...

**Genesis 39:11** ... when Joseph went into the house to do his work, and none of the men of the house was inside, 12 that [Potiphar's wife] caught him by his garment, saying, "Lie with me." But he left his garment in her hand, **and fled and ran outside.**

- Imprisoned later Exalted to **2<sup>nd</sup> in Egypt**
- **Q.** Flee Sexual sin? Why...everybody's doing it? **Q.** Have you looked at the result?
  1. Unwanted pregnancy leading to abortion from fornication
  2. Broken homes from adultery
  3. Lives thrown away like crust of bread...run

**Ephesians 5:5** ... no fornicator, unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an idolater, has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God.

**1 Corinthians 6:18 Flee sexual immorality.** Every sin that a man does is outside the body, but he who commits sexual immorality sins **against his own body.**

- **Sexual sin is against our own body...**
  1. Sin we carry with us in our bodies all our life
  2. Sin the devil throws at us all our life...many have learned the hard way

God created/designed Sex...One of God's greatest gifts to mankind  
**Lifelong consequences for abuse...Lifelong blessing in Marriage...**

**Hebrews 13:4** [Sex w/God's blessing/Beautiful and Glorious] Marriage is honorable among all, and the bed undefiled; but fornicators and adulterers God will judge.

**Saw a Harlot...Slept with the Harlot**  
Blinded by Self-Will

2 When the Gazites were told, "**Samson has come here!**" they surrounded the place and lay in wait for him all night at the gate of the city. They were quiet all night, saying, "In the morning, when it is daylight, we will kill him."  
3 And Samson lay low till midnight; then he arose at midnight, took hold of the doors of the gate of the city and the two gateposts, pulled them up, bar and all, put them on his shoulders, and carried them to the top of the hill that faces Hebron.

Despite his sin, God still gave Samson supernatural strength to escape from the Philistines. God did this because God's purpose was bigger than Samson himself, and because God used Samson despite Samson's sin, not because of it. [Guzik]

- Philistines surround Gaza Fly-by Night Mote
- Decide to wait till morning to kill Samson who flees at midnight
- Rips City Gate out ground carries to top of hill **facing east to Israel**

Samson looks from Gaza's hills to the bright lights of Hebron/Jerusalem  
**Samson disregards God's call...**

**Proverbs 26:11** As a dog returns to his own vomit, So a fool repeats his folly.

4 Afterward it happened that he **loved a woman** in the Valley of Sorek, whose name was **Delilah**. 5 And the lords of the Philistines came up to her and said to her, "**Entice him**, and find out where his great strength lies, and by what means we may overpower him..."

- **Entice him:** Find his strength/Find his weakness

**1 Peter 5:8** Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. 9 Resist him, steadfast in the faith...

- **Satan studies us to looking for a chink in our armor**

- |                       |   |
|-----------------------|---|
| 1. <b>Helmet</b>      | Are you questioning your salvation?                   |
| 2. <b>Breastplate</b> | Are you living a righteous life?                      |
| 3. <b>Belt</b>        | Are you walking in truth?                             |
| 4. <b>Shoes</b>       | Are you sharing your faith?                           |
| 5. <b>Shield</b>      | Do you have faith to knock down fiery darts of doubt? |
| 6. <b>Sword</b>       | Do know God's Word? How to use it?                    |

- **Be sober:** Satan looks for chinks in our armor...He seeks to devour us/lives/families
- Resist the devil and **he must flee...**

**James 4:7** ...submit to God. **Resist the devil** and he will flee from you. 8 Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. [How?] Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your

hearts, you double-minded.

- **Resist the Devil:** Take the temptation and flip it on his head
  1. Every time you tempt to gossip...I will pray for that person
  2. Every time you tempt me to anger...I will pray in that situation
  3. Every time you tempt me to sexual sin...I will find my satisfaction in the Lord
- Resist the devil and he will flee from you

Samson is not resisting the Devil/Temptation.

**Samson is in Love. Delilah is in love too...with money**

- **To Delilah:** Find Samson's strength/weakness...

**5b...** that we may bind him to afflict him; and every one of us will give you **eleven hundred pieces of silver.**" [140 lbs.]

- **Finding Jesus in the Judge**

**Matthew 26:15** [Judas to Religious Leaders] "What are you willing to give me if I deliver [Jesus] to you?" And they counted out to him **thirty pieces of silver.**

**Matthew 27:3** [Later...] Judas, His betrayer, seeing that He had been condemned, was remorseful and brought back the thirty **pieces of silver** to the chief priests and elders, 4 saying, "I have sinned by betraying innocent blood." And they said, "What is that to us? You see to it!" 5 Then he threw down the **pieces of silver** in the temple and departed, and went and **hanged himself.**

**Genesis 37:28** [Joseph's brothers...] sold him to the Ishmaelites for **twenty shekels of silver.** And they took Joseph to Egypt.

- Love of Money causes people do just about anything...

**1 Timothy 6:10** For the love of money is a **root of all kinds of evil**, for which some have strayed from the faith in their greediness, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.

- Samson a bit drunk with lust at this point...**Pillow Talk**

**6** So **Delilah said to Samson**, "Please tell me where your great strength lies, and with what you may be bound to afflict you." **7** And Samson said to her, "If they bind me with seven fresh bowstrings, not yet dried, then I shall become weak, and be like any other man." **8** So the lords of the Philistines brought up to her seven fresh bowstrings, not yet dried, and she bound him with them. **9** Now men were lying in wait, staying with her in the room. And she said to him, "The Philistines are upon you, Samson!" But he broke the bowstrings as a strand of yarn breaks when it touches fire. So the secret of his strength was not known.

- **Bound with fresh bowstrings**/Broken like yarn stretched over flame

**10** Then **Delilah said to Samson**, "Look, you have mocked me and told me

lies. Now, please tell me what you may be bound with." 11 So he said to her, "If they bind me securely with new ropes that have never been used, then I shall become weak, and be like any other man." 12 Therefore Delilah took new ropes and bound him with them, and said to him, "The Philistines are upon you, Samson!" And men were lying in wait, staying in the room. But he broke them off his arms like a thread.

- **Bound with New ropes**/Broken like a thread

13 Delilah said to Samson, "Until now you have mocked me and told me lies. Tell me what you may be bound with." And he said to her, "If you weave the seven locks of my head into the web of the loom"— 14 So she wove it tightly with the batten of the loom, and said to him, "The Philistines are upon you, Samson!" But he awoke from his sleep, and pulled out the batten and the web from the loom.

- **Hair woven into loom: [Idiot]** Pulled hair out easily

15 Then she said to him, "How can you say, '**I love you,**' when your heart is not with me? You have mocked me these three times, and have not told me where your great strength lies."

If you really love me you would...

**True love does not enter *self* into the equation**

**1 Corinthians 13:4** Love suffers long and is kind; love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not puffed up; 5 does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil; 6 does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth; 7 bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

**Advice:** Any potential marriage partner begins sentence... "If you really love me..." **Run!**

16 And it came to pass, when she **pestered him daily** with her words and pressed him, so that his soul was vexed to death, 17 that **he told her all his heart**, and said to her, "No razor has ever come upon my head, for I have been a Nazirite to God from my mother's womb. **If I am shaven**, then my strength will leave me, and **I shall become weak**, and be like any other man."

- **First Tactic**                    **Guilt.** If you loved me...
- **Second Tactic**                **Pestering;** i.e. Badgering to the point of wanting to die

**...Samson's soul was vexed to death. How's she looking now Sammy?**

- **Pestered**                    Compress/Distress/Oppress. Feel like crust of bread. Stuff throw away
- **Vexed**                        Reap [Grim reaper] or Harvest. Discourage or Loath his own soul

In this we see the strongest man in the world weak under the power of an ungodly relationship. Perhaps Samson figured that because he was strong in one area of his life, he

was strong in all areas. In this he was desperately wrong. [Guzik]

- **Samson *did not guard his heart***/left it unprotected...Father knows best

**Proverbs 4:23** Keep your heart with all diligence, For out of it spring the issues of life.

- Samson gave what was holy and sacred to the devil... [e.g. virginity]

**Matthew 7:6** "Do not give what is holy to the dogs; nor cast your pearls before swine, lest they trample them under their feet, and turn and tear you in pieces."

- Sometimes the chickens are slow to come home to roost...but they always come home

18 When Delilah saw that he had told her all his heart, she sent and called for the lords of the Philistines, saying, "Come up once more, for he has told me all his heart." So the lords of the Philistines came up to her and brought the money in their hand. 19 Then she lulled him to sleep on her knees, and called for a man and had him shave off the seven locks of his head. Then she began to torment him, and his **strength left him**. 20 And she said, "The Philistines are upon you, Samson!" ...

**After Samson pours out his heart...Delilah picks it up and throws it at the wall**

1. Not guarding our heart leads to...
2. Temptation which leads to...
3. Sin which leads to ...
4. Self-deceit; i.e. it's going to be okay
5. Which leads to ultimately/certainly to a **Tormented Empty Life**

**Isaiah 50:11** Look, all you who kindle a fire, Who encircle yourselves with sparks: Walk in the light of your fire and in the sparks you have kindled— This you shall have from My hand: You shall **lie down in torment**

- Self-will/Kindling your own fire/ **will get you burned...**

Samson now left weak/tormented. God took gift of strength he allowed Samson to have... Strength Samson took for granted one time too many times.

- Began with a thought but turned into a monster...

**James 1:14** [Don't blame God/others] ...each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed. 15 Then, when desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, brings forth death. 16 **Do not be deceived**, my beloved brethren.

The devil is cleverer far than even the skillful-barber; he can shave the believer's locks while he scarcely knows it." [Spurgeon]

**20b...** So he **awoke from his sleep**, and said, "I will go out as before, at other times, and shake myself free!" But he did not know that **the Lord had departed from him**.

**Awoke from his selfish intoxication/Realized the Lord *had left him***

**Judges 14:2** [Began earlier] I have seen a woman in Timnah of daughters of the Philistines

- **Timnah** Portion; Samson crosses into enemy territory
- **Self-willed** Crossing the line God drew for Samsons own protection...

**Genesis 6:3** And the Lord said, "My Spirit shall not strive with man forever,

**Consequences will come suddenly...And everything will change  
First his strength left Him...Then God departed from Him...**

**21 Then the Philistines took him and put out his eyes,** and brought him down to Gaza. They bound him with bronze fetters, and he became a grinder in the prison.

- Put out his eyes?

**Matthew 6:22** The lamp of the body is the eye. If therefore your eye is good, your whole body will be full of light. 23 But **if your eye is bad,** your whole body will be full of darkness.

- What our sights are set on is the direction our bodies will go

**Matthew 5:29** If your right eye causes you to sin, **pluck it out** and cast it from you; for it is more profitable for you that one of your members perish, than for your whole body to be cast into hell.

- If you won't pluck it ...Sometimes God will...
  1. **Blind:** No more looking for opportunity to sin
  2. **Bound:** No more so-called freedom; free-spirit

**We all serve somebody:** Only Two options...God or the Devil  
We may think we are serving self but in actuality we are serving the devil

- Samson a slave to the enemy he embraced as a friend...

**James 4:4** Adulterers and adulteresses! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Whoever therefore wants to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.

- Consequences he though he would never experience. **Surprise!**
  1. **Blind**
  2. **Bound** and ...
  3. **Broken:** Life now a grind. Subservient to enemy. No more pleasure in sin

**22 However,** the hair of his head began to grow again after it had been shaven.

- **However,** God had not forgotten about Samson

**SUMMARY Samson and Delilah**

## II. Samson Dies with the Philistines

23 Now the lords of the Philistines gathered together to offer a great sacrifice to Dagon their god, and to rejoice. And they said: "Our god has delivered into our hands Samson our enemy!" 24 When the people saw him, they praised their god; for they said: "**Our god has** delivered into our hands our enemy, The destroyer of our land, And the one who multiplied our dead."

- **Samson's Status? The Riddle-maker is now a joke...**

1. **Trophy of Demons** Our pagan god delivered him into our hands
2. **Embarrassment to God** Called to be a deliverer now a slave to enemy

**2 Samuel 12:14** [of David's sin...] ...because by this deed you **have given great occasion** to the enemies of the LORD to blaspheme...

- **Yet unbelievably God is not done**

I will be bound to say that he put his hand to his head, and felt that it was getting bristly, and then he put his hand to his beard, and found it rough. Yes, yes, yes, it was coming, and he thought within himself, 'It will be all right soon. I shall not get my eyes back. They will not grow again. I am an awful loser by my sin, but I shall get my strength back again, for my hair is growing. I shall be able to strike a blow for my people and for my God yet.' [Spurgeon]

25 So it happened, when their hearts were merry, that they said, "Call for Samson, that he may perform for us." So they called for Samson from the prison, and he performed for them...

- **Samson the Clown:**

1. Satan gives us what we desire until he is done with us...spits us out
2. Then shows us off as performing jesters to be mocked
  - Stealing our virginity
  - Stealing our family
  - Stealing our marriage
  - Stealing our respect

**Never underestimate** the cruelty of Satan. He lives to steal/kill/ and destroy lives  
**A Philistine boy is now leading Samson by the hand**

**25b...** And they stationed him between the pillars. 26 Then Samson said to the **lad who held** him by the hand, "Let me feel the pillars which support the temple, so that I can lean on them." 27 Now the temple was full of men and women. All the lords of the Philistines were there—about three thousand men and women on the roof watching while Samson performed.

**Audience of 3000 demon worshiping pagans clapping/jeering/stamping feet...**

- **Samson between two pillars:** Asks the boy to guide his hands to them

- **Samsons second recorded prayer...** first one for water [selfish] not this one...

**Stop feeling sorry for yourself and take responsibility**

28 Then Samson called to the Lord, saying, "O Lord God, remember me, I pray! Strengthen me, I pray, just this once, O God, that I may with one blow take vengeance on the Philistines for my two eyes!" 29 And Samson took hold of the two middle pillars which supported the temple, and he braced himself against them, one on his right and the other on his left. 30 Then Samson said, "Let me die with the Philistines!" And he pushed with all his might, and the temple fell on the lords and all the people who were in it. So the dead that he killed at his death were more than he had killed in his life. 31 And his brothers and all his father's household came down and took him, and brought him up and buried him between Zorah and Eshtaol in the tomb of his father Manoah. He had judged Israel twenty years.

**Samson never experienced joy in Life. Never knew the joy of the Lord**

Wanted to live for himself he will die by himself

- **We have a choice...**

- |                       |  |
|-----------------------|--|
| 1. Play with Fire     | Self-will leading us and others to be...       |
| 2. Burned by Fire     | Consequences/Collateral damage to others or... |
| 3. Be on Fire for God | Have God's best. Joy of Life. Joy of the Lord  |

Samson's Sad Empty Life...**but he did finish well**

**Hebrews 11:32b** ... time would fail me to tell of Gideon and Barak and **Samson**...33 who through faith subdued kingdoms, worked righteousness, etc...

**Let's not only finish well...Let's run the entire race well from here on out**

**1 Corinthians 9:24** Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but one receives the prize? **Run in such a way** that you may obtain it. 25 And everyone who competes for the prize is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a perishable crown, but we for an imperishable crown. 26 Therefore I run thus: **not with uncertainty**. Thus **I fight**: not as one who beats the air. 27 But **I discipline my body** and bring it into subjection, lest, when I have preached to others, I myself should become disqualified.

**2 Timothy 4:7** I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.

**Well done good and faithful servant...Enter into the joy of your Lord**