

## Judges 16:1

One day Samson went to Gaza, where he saw a **Prostitute**.

He went in to **Spend** the **Night** with her.

- 20 years – Pastor
- Self-sufficient / Selfish
- Our reaction?

<sup>2</sup> The people of Gaza were told, "Samson is here!" So they surrounded the place and lay in **Wait** for him all night **at** the **CITY GATE**.

They made no move during the night, saying, "At **Dawn** we'll **kill** him."



WHO CAN STOP A MAN STRONG ENOUGH TO CARRY THE CITY GATE? I TELL YOU—

—HIS STRENGTH IS NOT HUMAN!

<sup>3</sup> But Samson lay there only until the **middle** of the night. Then he got up and took hold of the **Doors** of the **city gate**, together with the **two Posts**, and tore them loose, bar and all. *Avoid **Arrows**!*

He lifted them to his shoulders and **carried them** to the **Top** of the **Hill** that faces Hebron.

*What was on the top of the Hill?*

**Trees**!

<sup>4</sup> Sometime later, he fell in **LOVE** *What did **Samson** mean by **LOVE**?* with a woman in the Valley of Sorek whose name was Delilah.

**<sup>5</sup> The rulers of the Philistines went to her and said, "See if you can lure him into showing you the secret of his great strength and how we can overpower him so we may tie him up and subdue him. Each one of us will give you eleven hundred shekels of silver."**

**vs. 6- 15 – clip of spider wrapping up a fly – sin wears us down!**

- 1. 7 fresh New Bowstrings**
- 2. New Ropes**
- 3. 7 Braids of my head woven into a loom**



<sup>16</sup> With such **Nagging** she **Prodded** him **Day** after **Day** until he was **TIRED** to **Death**.

<sup>17</sup> So he **Told** her **Everything**.

"No razor has ever been used on my head," he said, "because I have been a **Nazirite set apart** to **God** since birth. If my head were shaved, my **strength** would **leave** me, and I would become as weak as any other man." <sup>18</sup> When Delilah saw that he 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. <sup>19</sup> Having put him to **Sleep** **Drugs** er lap, she called a man to shave off the **Seven Braids** of his hair, and so began to

subdue him. **And his strength left him.**

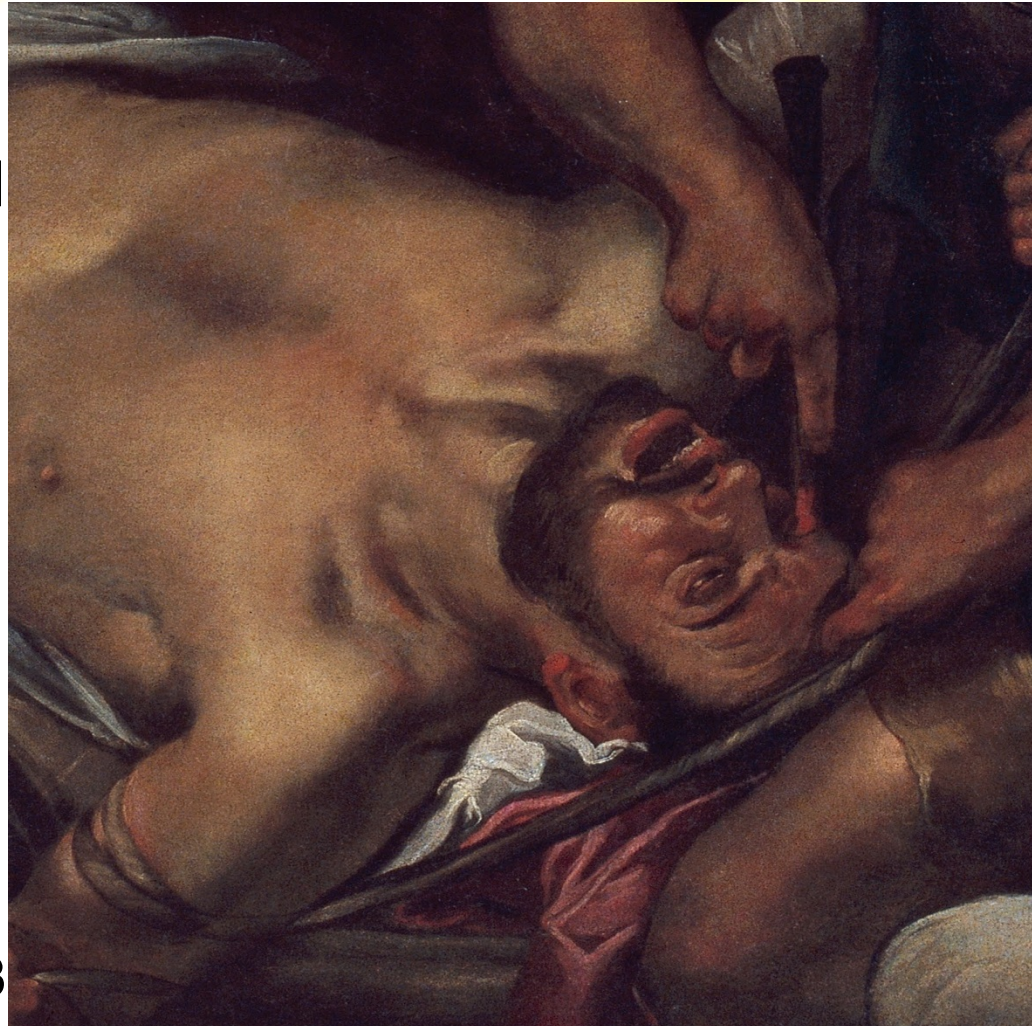
<sup>20</sup> Then she called, "Samson, the Philistines are upon you!" He awoke from his sleep and thought, "I'll go out as before and shake myself free."

One of the **SADDEST** line in the entire Bible!

But he did **NOT KNOW** that the **LORD** had **LEFT** him.

<sup>21</sup> Then the Philistines seized him, **GOUGED OUT** his **Eyes** and took him down to Gaza.

Binding him with bronze shackles, they set him to **Grinding** in the prison. <sup>22</sup> But the hair on his head began to grow again after it had been shaved.



<sup>23</sup> 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."

<sup>24</sup> When the people saw him, they **praised their god**, saying,

"**Our god** has delivered our enemy into our hands, the one who laid waste our land and multiplied our slain." <sup>25</sup> While they were in high spirits, they shouted, "Bring out Samson to **ENTERTAIN** us."

So they called Samson out of the prison, and he **PERFORMED** for them.



video





Learn:

## 1. He had many **Advantages**

- He came from a **Good Home**
- He had an **Attractive Nature** 'Little sunshine'.
- He was very **Smart!**
- He had a good **Faith** tradition
- He had **True Experiences** of the **Holy Spirit's power**
- He had powerful **Answers** to his **Prayers**

## 2. His **Failures**

- He did **Not Appreciate his Gift!**
- He did **Not Learn** from his mistakes!
- He **Never Loved** God's people!

### 3. Lessons

➤ **HORRIBLE** consequences for our Sin can be a **Great Kindness**

➤ He died a **Man of Faith**

Hebrews 11:32 And what more shall I say? For time will fail me if I tell of Gideon, Barak, **Samson**, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets,

➤ **Real Strength is Love**