

I. The Folly Of Young Men (10-13)

A. An opportunistic crew (10-11) – “His father went down to the woman, and Samson prepared a feast there, for so the young men used to do. As soon as the people saw him, they brought thirty companions to be with him.”

B. An unnecessary risk (12-13a) – “And Samson said to them, “Let me now put a riddle to you. If you can tell me what it is, within the seven days of the feast, and find it out, then I will give you thirty linen garments and thirty changes of clothes, 13 but if you cannot tell me what it is, then you shall give me thirty linen garments and thirty changes of clothes.”

C. An immature cockiness (13b) – “And they said to him, “Put your riddle, that we may hear it.” **Put up or shut up!**

II. The Blindness of a Man Who Still Had His Eyes (14-18)

A. Blind to his living beneath his calling (14) – “And he said to them, “Out of the eater came something to eat. Out of the strong came something sweet.” And in three days they could not solve the riddle.”

B. Blind to the trouble he had stirred (15) - “On the fourth day they said to Samson’s wife, “Entice your husband to tell us what the riddle is, lest we burn you and your father’s house with fire. Have you invited us here to impoverish us?”

C. Blind to overt manipulation (16-17) – “And Samson’s wife wept over him and said, “You only hate me; you do not love me. You have put a riddle to my people, and you have not told me what it is.” And he said to her, “Behold, I have not told my father nor my mother, and shall I tell you?” 17 She wept before him the seven days that their feast lasted, and on the seventh day he told her, because she pressed him hard. Then she told the riddle to her people.”

D. Blind to the cost of his gamble (18) – “And the men of the city said to him on the seventh day before the sun went down, “What is sweeter than honey? What is stronger than a lion?” And he said to them, “If you had not plowed with my heifer, you would not have found out my riddle.”

III. The Ugly Harvest From Careless Seed (19-20)

A. Samson experienced grace (19a) – “And the Spirit of the Lord rushed upon him...”

B. Samson reclaimed dominance (19b) – “...and he went down to Ashkelon and struck down thirty men of the town and took their spoil and gave the garments to those who had told the riddle.” **What he might have established through influence he had to establish through violence**

C. Samson was being mastered by his flesh (19c) – “In hot anger he went back to his father’s house.”

D. Samson lost the prize (20) – “And Samson’s wife was given to his companion, who had been his best man.”

This whole episode revolved around Samson’s determination to have this woman become his wife. After all the planning, partying, riddling, humiliation and violence, Samson goes home with nothing but loss.