

**“Sampson – The Conclusion”**

**Judges 16**

**Scripture Ref: 1 Peter 5:8; Gal 6:7-9; Eph 4:23-24; James 4:8-10; Rom 1:21-23;  
Jer 29:11**

- 1. Samson – the end of the story**
  - a. The birth of Sampson**
  - b. Sampson and his Philistine wife**
  - c. Sampson and Delilah**
  - d. The Death of Sampson**
- 2. In chapter 16 we find Samson on the move again, going into Gaza.**
  - a. Was he there to fight a battle? To deliver the Israelites?**
  - b. No – he was looking for the true desire of his heart - the daughters of the Philistines.**

**Samson and the Harlot**

16:1 Now Samson went to Gaza and saw a harlot there, and went in to her. 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.

- 3. Samson carried the doors thirty eight miles, up 3300 feet elevation, an incredible feat.**
  - a. The men lying in wait for Samson might have wondered “what makes him so strong? What is the secret of his strength?”**
  - b. Setup for next scene - “looking for Samson’s secret of strength”**

**Samson and Delilah**

4 Afterward it happened that he loved a woman in the Valley of Sorek (**choice vine!**), whose name was Delilah (**“brought very low”**). 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, that we may bind him to afflict him; and every one of us will give you eleven hundred pieces of silver."

- 4. We are not given any details of how Samson met Delilah, or how he ended up in the Valley of Sorek.**
  - a. But his tendency, it’s a pretty safe bet that once again he was out surveying the Philistine territory looking for a woman!**

- b. Again looking to fulfill himself, instead of being focused on the calling of God in his life
- c. Put him in a place he should not have been - dangerous territory!
- 5. The lords of the Philistines come knocking on Delilah's door, and they have an agenda: They wanted to find out the secret of Samson's strength
  - a. Because if they can find the secret of his strength, perhaps they can take it away from him, overpower him, and then torment him.
  - b. They offer her eleven hundred pieces of silver – approx 140 pounds of silver – EACH.
- 6. This sets up a scene that I believe gets repeated over and over in the church...
  - a. Christians – who like Samson are born as children of promise
    - i. Filled with the Spirit of God
    - ii. Anointed and appointed by God for life and ministry
  - b. Begin to compromise the very clear boundaries that God gives us.
  - c. And begin seeking out things to satisfy the flesh, going to places they should not be, associating with people that they should not be with
  - d. They fail to realize that there is a very real enemy out there that is always looking for a way to overpower them and torment them!

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

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.

- 7. Now, I know it's easy to comment on something in hindsight, but I think that given what has just taken place, Samson ought to be getting an idea that this is a very sketchy situation.
  - a. IOW – he should have gotten up, packed his things, and hit the road. Talk about blind love!
  - b. But he didn't...

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.

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.

**8. Maybe you are thinking what I am thinking: The first time we might give Samson a pass...**

- a. "maybe it's innocent – she just wants to know what makes me so big and strong"
- b. "and all these Philistine guys at her house – every time a wake up ... they're just there for a birthday party!"

**9. But here we have three occasion where Delilah has specifically asked him the secret of his strength,**

- a. he told her some lame story,
- b. then she did exactly what he told her would weaken him,
- c. **AND there were men waiting each time he awoke...**
- d. **Dude needs to get a clue!**

**Why would he stay?**

**10. We have to wonder, why would Samson remain in this place, with this woman, when there are very clear indications that she is attempting to disarm him and deliver him to his enemies?**

- a. **Many Christians are in a similar place – associated with people that are very questionable, involved in things that are suspect**
- b. **What makes them stay?**

**Desire**

**11. It says Samson "loved" this woman, but I question was it really love, or was it desire?**

- a. **What did he love about her? Her character? Honor? Loyalty?**
- b. **NOT! She was HOT!**
- c. **Many times people enter into relationships with people that are not good for them... and they say "I love her/him"**

- d. But in reality they are confusing love with desire.
- e. When our flesh wants something, and our mind decides to fulfil that desire, we make a conscious decision to choose what we WANT over what is BEST.
- f. In order to do this we have to internally re-arrange our priorities –
- g. Instead of our priorities being obedience to the Lord, doing what is right and best for us and our lives,
- h. We place our desire at the top of our decision-making matrix.
- i. Here is the rub: There is a part of us – called the Holy Spirit of God, that is telling us NO! Bad idea! Run!
- j. When we choose to reject that guidance, it leads to the next step...

### **Denial**

**12. People will often stay in bad situations because they have convinced themselves that things are different than they really are. They alter their reality!**

- a. They deny the truth of the situation, and instead believe the lie that allows them to stay in the situation.
- b. I can hear his thoughts now - “She really does love me”
- c. And there are always indicators - as the indicators increase, the amount of denial required to remain in the situation has to increase as well.

**13. This is a perfect example of how poor decisions and ungodly relationships can warp a persons thinking.**

- a. We sometimes see a Christian who at one point was serving the Lord, and now we look at them and think “what has happened!?”
- b. And you talk to them – and they make no spiritual sense at all. You think “you have lost your mind!”
- c. Yes – they have entered the “death spiral of denial”

**14. The next step is often a warping of their view of God...**

### **Misconception**

**15. Perhaps Samson misinterpreted the delay of God’s judgment and correction as a sign that “God was not concerned about it”**

- a. He might have thought “hey, I am being used by God, God has to take that into consideration”
- b. This is a sort of “compartmentalization” that a person can do – trying to separate their “spiritual” lives with their “worldly” lives.

***Gal 6:7-9***

7 Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap. 8 For he who sows to his flesh will of the flesh reap corruption, but he who sows to the Spirit will of the Spirit reap everlasting life.

- c. **A person might think that because God has not ‘struck me down’ for their sin, that they are OK.**
- d. **Fact is – God often allows our own sin to be the correction that is intended to bring us to repentance.**

**16. But sometimes we simply choose to stay...**

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." 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." 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!" 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.**

**17. I think this is one of the saddest statements in the bible – Samson did not know that the Lord had left him!**

- a. **IOW he had become so detached from the Lord, he was not even aware of when the Spirit of God departed from his life.**

**18. The Philistine lords wanted to know what the secret of Samson’s power was – apparently they cut his hair, and “poof”, he was like any other man**

- a. **But this statement: “*But he did not know that the LORD had departed from him.*” Tells us something**
- b. **It tells us that the source of his strength was not in his hair, or not touching dead things, or not drinking wine**
- c. **The true source of his strength was “the Spirit of the Lord”**
- d. **And the reason that his strength left him was because the Lord left him.**

**19. "Why did the Lord leave him? I cannot presume to speak for God, but it seems to me that Samson at this point had violated every condition of his Nazirite vow**

- a. And it seems to me that Samson, called to judge and deliver Israel, instead of walking in the fullness of his calling – was now fully living to fulfill the lust of his flesh.**
- b. Left unjudged, these lusts will bring the mightiest saint into bondage and darkness.**

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

**20. From here on out, Samson does nothing but lose...**

- a. He lost his hair, the symbol of his Nazirite dedication – that dedication had long been lost**
- b. He lost his strength – he tries to break free again, but his efforts are futile**
- c. He loses the light – his eyes put out**
- d. He loses his liberty – confined to a prison**
- e. He loses his usefulness to the Lord: instead of fighting mighty battles for the Lord, he is grinding corn**
- f. And he lost his testimony – for the Philistine fish-god Dagon was given credit for their victory over Samson.**

### **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."

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. 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.

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.

### **Lessons from Samson**

**#1 We have a sin nature that desires to be fulfilled yet it must be conquered. Samson could set fields on fire and kill a lion, but he could not put to death the passions of his flesh.**

*Col 3:5 Therefore put to death your members which are on the earth: fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry.*

**We can give in to our passions, and suffer the consequences, or we can put on the new man in Christ...**

***Eph 4:23-24***

*...and be renewed in the spirit of your mind, 24 and that you put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness.*

**#2 We cannot compartmentalize our lives as Christians – having one part as “spiritual” and one part as “worldly.”**

***James 4:8-9***

*Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded.*

***James 4:10***

*10 Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He will lift you up.*

**#3 Be careful of compromise, because it can lead down a path of rationalization, denial, and finally a warped sense of reality!**

***Rom 1:21-23***

*...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. 22 Professing to be wise, they became fools,*

**#4 As Christians, we each have an appointment and an anointment from God. We can either squander the plan God has, or we can walk in the fullness of His plan for us!**

**Jer 29:11** *For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the LORD, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope.*

Copyright © 2008 Pastor Clay Ritter. This data file is the sole property of Pastor Clay Ritter. It may be copied only in its entirety for circulation freely without charge. All copies of this data file must contain this copyright notice. This data file may not be copied in part, edited, revised, copied for resale or incorporated in any commercial publications, recordings, broadcasts, performances, displays or other products offered for sale, without the written permission of Pastor Clay Ritter. Requests for permission should be made in writing and addressed to Pastor Clay Ritter, c/o Calvary Chapel of Wilmington, 2831 Carolina Beach Rd, Wilmington NC, 28412.