

Judges 16

January 5, 2012

V. 1

It's so sad to see Samson, go down, so deep, so far, into enemy territory (map)

Once again we see...Samson sins with his feet, going where he does not belong; he then sins with his eyes, as he did back 14:1, looking where he should not look, in ways he should **not** be looking.

And here we see, to make matters even worse, this time it wasn't just a Philistine daughter, this time it was a Philistine harlot.

And Samson fell - into sexual sin with her.

He had a problem with girls - we saw that back in chapter 14, when he fell for a Philistine woman; we see it here, the Judge of Israel sleeping with a prostitute of Philistia.

Undoubtedly this is every man's **battle**, but clearly this was Samson's **bondage**.

A man so gifted and lifted up by God, brought down so low by girls.

This is why Billy Graham warns the men to beware of three things, the **glory**, the **gold** and the **girls**...my, how the mighty have fallen to pride, money, and women. Even one as mighty as Samson, and he becomes the poster child for Proverbs 6:26 "For by means of a harlot *A man is reduced to a crust of bread...*"

Proverbs 7:24-27 "Now therefore, listen to me, *my children*; Pay attention to the words of my mouth: Do not let your heart turn aside to her ways, do not stray into her paths; for she has cast down many wounded, and all who were slain by her were strong *men*. Her house *is* the way to hell, descending to the chambers of death."

Samson fell, so you would figure Samson was now immediately stripped of his gift of power, and the position he held as judge of Israel.

But notice what we read:

V. 2-3

One of the things we learn about Samson is that he was a man who never **learned**.

Another thing we learn about Samson is that he was a man who never **earned**.

By that I mean, his gift was all God's grace.

When the Gazites surrounded Samson, they were going to get him first thing in the morning, Samson just lays low till midnight and he goes out, takes hold of doors the gate of the city, pulls em up, bars and all, and carries them away 60 miles to the top of the hill that faces Hebron.

No one could stop him.

And as God's people, when we do good, we can be lessons of obedience.

And when we do bad, we are lessons of God's grace.

May we never come to that place of thinking my goodness earned this gift, the position of responsibility. No, giftedness and godliness are 2 different things.

Now of course, we should know as NT Christians, Romans 5:20, that "...where sin abounded, grace abounded much more,"

But we need to balance that with Romans 6:1-2 "What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound? 2* Certainly not! How shall we who died to sin live any longer in it?"

We use it, but we must not abuse it.

We are needy with God's grace, but not greedy.

As a matter of fact, it's this very grace and goodness of God, that should've brought Samson to repentance.

Unfortunately and eventually, inevitably and tragically it did not.

And Samson not only fell, he fell – in love:

V. 4

Now we know, he didn't really love Delilah, not in the true sense of the word; but from a human perspective this gal really got him.

When that happens, "love" becomes an intoxication.

You then sin with your feet, you sin with your eyes, and you then sin with your heart...and so many guys and gals, have given their heart to the wrong person.

If only Samson went to mountains, instead of the valley; if only Samson would have seen the Lord, instead of these ladies; if only Samson would have loved the Lord, and not all these women...everything would have been different.

But, since Samson refused to be **taught**, Samson therefore, choosed to be **caught** – and he was, in the clutches, the hands of a heartless, greedy, wicked woman; but she was undoubtedly pretty, with a perfect body...and this woman, Delilah, whose name means “feeble” would be the fatal attraction.

1 Peter 3:3-4 “Do not let your adornment be *merely* outward--arranging the hair, wearing gold, or putting on *fine* apparel-- rather *let it be* the hidden person of the heart, with the incorruptible *beauty* of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is very precious in the sight of God.”

Look what happens:

V. 5

Now, more than likely there were 5 lords/leaders of the Philistines:

Joshua 13:3 ““from Sihor, which *is* east of Egypt, as far as the border of Ekron northward (*which* is counted as Canaanite); the five lords of the Philistines--the Gazites, the Ashdodites, the Ashkelonites, the Gittites, and the Ekronites; also the Avites;”

They each offer eleven hundred pieces of silver!

(Jesus was sold for a grand total of 30 pieces of silver)

Notice their strategy: Entice him!

Now, for 1 thing - this sounds familiar, and it should – remember back in 14:15 (read)

It also sounds familiar, because this is one of the enemies main weapons – to entice us; and he want to use that weapon for the same reason of ruin that they had for Samson.

1. To strip us of our strength in God.

2. To overpower us.

3. To then afflict us.

Not just topple us but torture us; Not just conquer, but kill.

He says to his demons, and instruments of unrighteousness, it would be **nice** to **entice** them.

Now Samson's been here, done that, so he's going to be okay right?

Wrong. Remember, that's one of the things I hope we learn about Samson, he's the man who never learned.

The enemy uses liars in Deuteronomy 13 to entice; he uses ladies, in Job 31:9 to entice. The dictionary defines it as "to attract, or tempt by offering pleasure."

The Hebrew word is an interesting word, *pawthaw* 06601 means to be spacious, wide and open; to seduce, persuade and deceive.

Now, at first it sound like 2 different things, "to be open?" "To be seduced?"

But, you see, when one is enticed, he is only enticed, because he's **open** to be enticed, seduced and reduced to a crust of bread.

In Job 5:2, the same Hebrew word is translated "simple one."

In Hosea 7:11, the same Hebrew word is translated "silly."

They lacked the Word, they lacked the wisdom;

Proverbs 1:10 "My son, if sinners **entice** you, do not consent."

But Samson was not only simple, he was **super**-simple:

V. 6-14

How could this be?

Samson could not see.

He was not living seriously.

Samson was playing with Delilah, he was playing with his destiny, he was playing with the devil; he was playing with sex, he was sin, he was playing with the Spirit of God.

He was playing with his future, he was playing with fire:

Proverbs 6:27 "Can a man take fire to his bosom, and his clothes not be burned?"

V. 15-16

Deja-Ve?

Where have we heard this before? (Judges 14:16-17)

I got out of it! (kind of)

No, what did you **get** out of it!

I survived!

Yes, but who were you sanctified?

V. 16-20

V. 20 has to be one of the saddest passages in all of the Bible!

And Samson, the he-man, with a she-weakness, becomes an example of what **not** to do, instead of what one ought to do.

He's a lesson in grace, yes – for the simple reason that he was used by God to a certain extent and he was a child of God; but he was a wild child...and becomes a lesson in God's holiness as well.

God is incredibly long-suffering; but we read in Genesis 6:3 "And the LORD said, "My Spirit shall not strive with man forever..."

You see, God will **not** leave us, but He **will** honor our decision to leave Him...and that's exactly what Samson did.

This is what Saul did:

1 Samuel 16:14 "But the Spirit of the LORD departed from Saul, and a distressing spirit from the LORD troubled him."

1 Samuel 18:12 "Now Saul was afraid of David, because the LORD was with him, but had departed from Saul."

We read the principle in 2 Chronicles 15:2 "And he went out to meet Asa, and said to him: "Hear me, Asa, and all Judah and Benjamin. The LORD *is* with you while you are with Him. If you seek Him, He will be found by you; but if you forsake Him, He will forsake you."

You see, Samson **fell**, Samson fell **in love**, and Samson fell **away**

Psalms 101:3 "I will set nothing wicked before my eyes; I hate the work of those who fall away; it shall not cling to me."

Hebrews 10:38 "Now the just shall live by faith; but if *anyone* draws back, my soul has no pleasure in him."

Does it have to end this way?

Does it end for Samson this way?

No, thank God, no, to both questions. Although Samson doesn't finish well, in his suicidal-sacrifice, he does finish; and we'll talk more about that next week (Lord willing).

But today, we end with a challenge:

Joshua 7:12 ""Therefore the children of Israel could not stand before their enemies, *but* turned *their* backs before their enemies, because they have become doomed to destruction. Neither will I be with you anymore, **unless you destroy the accursed from among you.**"

Not in a derogatory way, not in a condemning way, and not even in an ***idealistic*** way...(you need to be perfect) - just a ***realistic*** way. Is there anything accursed, anything or anyone I'm putting before the Lord? Is there any sin that the Spirit is pointing to, that needs to be "destroyed."

If so, right now, right here...let's do that type of business with God.

Lord, forgive me for loving Delilah, forgive us for loving things like, girls, gold or glory. Lord, help not to ***be*** simple, but to keep it simple...fall in love with God!

Luke 10:27-28 "So he answered and said," '**You shall love the LORD your God** with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength, and with all your mind,' and 'your neighbor as yourself.'" And He said to him, "You have answered rightly; do this and you will live."""