

Samson and Delilah

(Judges 16:1-22)

Yearly Theme: “Love Is...”

Series Title: Kind of a “BIG” Deal

July 21st, 2019

Something to think about:

As we continue Samson’s story today, what we’ll see is that his *pride* in his strength would become his greatest weakness that would ultimately lead to his downfall. Samson’s lust would become the opening through which his demise would come.

Let’s take a look at the ongoing story of Samson...

Follow along in your Bibles: Judges 16:1-22

Here’s the key point this morning...

Key Point: “Pride leads to weakness.”

What can we learn about Samson through this particular passage? How did Samson’s strength become his greatest weakness? How did pride become Samson’s downfall? Let’s take a look...

- **Samson’s addiction to lust make him weak.**

Judges 16:1, 4 (NLT), ¹ One day Samson went to the Philistine town of Gaza and spent the night with a prostitute. ...

... ⁴ Some time later Samson fell in love with a woman named Delilah, who lived in the valley of Sorek.

- **Because of Samson’s pride and disobedience, God quietly left him.**

Judges 16:20b (NLT), ... When he woke up, he thought, “I will do as before and shake myself free.” But he didn’t realize the LORD had left him.

- **Samson’s spiritual blindness left him physically blind.**

Judges 16:21 (NLT), So the Philistines captured him and gouged out his eyes. They took him to Gaza, where he was bound with bronze chains and forced to grind grain in the prison.

Something to take home:

“All of God’s Giants have been weak men. Hudson Taylor, founder of the China Inland Mission, knew the secret of strength through *weakness*. Complimented once by a friend on the impact of the mission, Hudson answered, ‘It seemed to me that God looked over the whole world to find a man who was *weak* enough to do His work, and when He at last found me, He said, “He is *weak* enough—he’ll do.” All God’s giants have been weak men who did great things for God because they counted on His being with them.’”¹

Samson was a giant in the world’s eyes during his day, but he would have to be humbled in order to become a giant in God’s Kingdom. It wasn’t until Samson was weak, that he became strong.² For not too long after Samson’s humiliation, his hair began to grow. The once great man who ruled over Israel as a Judge, with physical strength and prowess, would have to be brought low physically in order to become strong in God’s eyes.

Our world and our culture honor pride and arrogance as something to be sought after. The world holds high those who achieve greatness by the world’s standards. The world elevates the proud and the wicked as people to emulate. But, God will have nothing to do with that kind of fame. In God’s Kingdom, it’s the first who are last and the last who are first.³ In God’s Kingdom, the greatest is the one who serves.⁴

Key Point: “Pride leads to weakness.”

¹ Our Daily Bread, May 13, 1996.

² 1 Corinthians 1:27; 2 Corinthians 12:10.

³ Matthew 20:16.

⁴ Luke 22:24-27.

NOTES:



North Main Exists to...

“Develop completely committed followers of Christ who:

Know Christ intimately,
Grow in Christ continually, and,
Go for Christ daily;

Through:
Core Families,
Community Partnerships, and
Global Connections.”

Love is not...

BOASTFUL or PROUD

"THE STORY OF SAMSON"

LESSON 3:

"SAMSON AND DELILAH"
(Judges 16:1-22)

Samson and Delilah

(Judges 16:1-22)

Series Title: *Kind of a "BIG" Deal*

KICK STARTERS:

- ⇒ How would you define the word "weakness?"
- ⇒ Describe a time when you were at your weakest?

SCRIPTURE: (Before studying this material, consider listening to the corresponding message online at: <http://www.northmaincog.org/media/sermon-media>)

Judges 16:1-22 (NLT)

¹ One day Samson went to the Philistine town of Gaza and spent the night with a prostitute. ² Word soon spread that Samson was there, so the men of Gaza gathered together and waited all night at the town gates. They kept quiet during the night, saying to themselves, "When the light of morning comes, we will kill him."

³ But Samson stayed in bed only until midnight. Then he got up, took hold of the doors of the town gate, including the two posts, and lifted them up, bar and all. He put them on his shoulders and carried them all the way to the top of the hill across from Hebron.

⁴ Some time later Samson fell in love with a woman named Delilah, who lived in the valley of Sorek. ⁵ The rulers of the Philistines went to her and said, "Entice Samson to tell you what makes him so strong and how he can be overpowered and tied up securely. Then each of us will give you 1,100 pieces of silver."

⁶ So Delilah said to Samson, "Please tell me what makes you so strong and what it would take to tie you up securely."

⁷ Samson replied, "If I were tied up with seven new bowstrings that have not yet been dried, I would become as weak as anyone else."

⁸ So the Philistine rulers brought Delilah seven new bowstrings, and she tied Samson up with them. ⁹ She had hidden some men in one of the inner rooms of her house, and she cried out, "Samson! The Philistines have come to capture you!" But Samson snapped the bowstrings as a piece of string snaps when it is burned by a fire. So the secret of his strength was not discovered.

¹⁰ Afterward Delilah said to him, "You've been making fun of me and telling me lies! Now please tell me how you can be tied up securely."

¹¹ Samson replied, "If I were tied up with brand-new ropes that had never been used, I would become as weak as anyone else."

¹² So Delilah took new ropes and tied him up with them. The men were hiding in the inner room as before, and again Delilah cried out, "Samson! The Philistines have come to capture you!" But again Samson snapped the ropes from his arms as if they were thread.

¹³ Then Delilah said, "You've been making fun of me and telling me lies! Now tell me how you can be tied up securely." Samson replied, "If you were to weave the seven braids of my hair into the fabric on your loom and tighten it with the loom shuttle, I would become as weak as anyone else."

So while he slept, Delilah wove the seven braids of his hair into the fabric. ¹⁴ Then she tightened it with the loom shuttle. Again she cried out, "Samson! The Philistines have come to capture you!" But Samson woke up, pulled back the loom shuttle, and yanked his hair away from the loom and the fabric.

¹⁵ Then Delilah pouted, "How can you tell me, 'I love you,' when you don't share your secrets with me? You've made fun of me three times now, and you still haven't told me what makes you so strong!" ¹⁶ She tormented him with her nagging day after day until he was sick to death of it.

¹⁷ Finally, Samson shared his secret with her. "My hair has never been cut," he confessed, "for I was dedicated to God as a Nazirite from birth. If my head were shaved, my strength would leave me, and I would become as weak as anyone else."

¹⁸ Delilah realized he had finally told her the truth, so she sent for the Philistine rulers. "Come back one more time," she said, "for he has finally told me his secret." So the Philistine rulers returned with the money in their hands. ¹⁹ Delilah lulled Samson to sleep with his head in her lap, and then she called in a man to shave off the seven locks of his hair. In this way she began to bring him down, and his strength left him.

²⁰ Then she cried out, "Samson! The Philistines have come to capture you!"

When he woke up, he thought, "I will do as before and shake myself free." But he didn't realize the LORD had left him.

²¹ So the Philistines captured him and gouged out his eyes. They took him to Gaza, where he was bound with bronze chains and forced to grind grain in the prison.

²² But before long, his hair began to grow back.

GROUP DISCUSSION:

1. Give a brief synopsis of what is going on in the text for today's study...

2. Samson seems to have a problem with sexual lust. The scene opens in chapter 16 of Judges with Samson spending the night with a prostitute. What trouble does he find himself in, and how does he get out of it (vv. 1-3)?

3. After his night with a prostitute in Gaza, Samson finds another woman who catches his eye. What is her name, and how does she become involved in a plot to take down Samson (vv. 5-6)?

4. In the ongoing story with Delilah, what are the first three scenarios that Samson gives her that would seem to be the reasons for him losing his great strength (vv. 7-14)?

5. After three failed attempts to get Samson to tell her the secret to his great strength, what does Delilah say that causes Samson to give in to her request (vv. 15-17)? Why do you think this caused Samson to tell her his secret?

6. What happens after Samson tells Delilah the secret to his great strength (vv. 18-21)? What caused God leave Samson? Does it strike you as interesting that God left Samson? Why, or why not?

7. Samson's eyes were gouged out when he was captured. How were Samson's eyes one of the problems in his life? How was Samson's pride and arrogance a problem that led to his demise?

8. How did Samson's great strength ultimately become his greatest weakness?

9. We are told in verse 22 that before long, Samson's hair began to grow back. How is this a foreshadowing of what's to come, and an example of God's willingness to give second chances?

SELF-EVALUATION/APPLICATION:

- ⇒ **SAMSON WAS A GIANT** in the world's eyes during his day, but he would have to be humbled in order to become a giant in God's Kingdom. It wasn't until Samson was weak, that he became strong. Our world and our culture honor pride and arrogance as something to be sought after. The world holds high those who achieve greatness by the world's standards. The world elevates the proud and the wicked as people to emulate. But, God will have nothing to do with that kind of fame. In God's Kingdom, it's the first who are last and the last who are first. In God's Kingdom, the greatest is the one who serves.
- ⇒ **MEMORY VERSES:** *Judges 16:22; 1 Corinthians 1:27; 2 Corinthians 12:10.*