

SAMSON: PHYSICALLY STRONG, MORALLY WEAK [2]

(Judges 13 -16)

INTRODUCTION: (Review first sermon.) In this sermon, we shall consider some of Samson's sins, so that, we may learn to avoid falling into the same temptations that Satan is still using. The "*pleasures of sin*" are "*for a season*", but the grief which follows may continue forever. (Heb. 11:25) Knowing this truth should motivate us to "*resist the devil*". (Jam. 4:7)

Samson sinned:

I. BECAUSE HE WAS SELF-WILLED (14:4,7)

- A. A self-willed person must have his way, regardless of how his way may hurt others or the church!
- B. One of the qualifications of an elder is that he must not be self-willed (Titus 1:7)
- C. Are you a self-willed, obstinate person?

II. WHEN HE DISOBEYED GOD BY MARRYING A PHILISTINE WOMAN (Deut. 7:1-5)

- A. Any time we refuse to submit to God's commandments, we bring shame, grief, and remorse upon ourselves for God's laws are for our good (Deut. 10:12,13)
- B. Samson's marriage, with a Philistine woman, only brought him much grief and shame
- C. At his marriage feast, he "*put forth a riddle*" and proposed a wager of "*thirty linen garments and thirty changes of raiment*" upon their being able to answer his riddle (14:10-14)
 1. Samson had killed a young lion with his bare hands (14:5.6)
 2. On a later trip to see his sweetheart, "*he turned aside to see the carcass of the lion...*" (14:8,9)
 3. He violated his Nazirite vow by coming near a dead body (Num. 6:6)
 4. The Philistines put tremendous pressure upon Samson's wife to find out the answer to his riddle (14:15)
 5. Samson's wife put a lot of pressure on Samson by weeping before him seven days (14:16,17)
 - a. How would you feel if your new bride wept for seven days?
 - b. This was a very sad beginning to a very short marriage
 6. Samson gave in to her pressure and told her the answer to the riddle (14:17)
 7. He knew how the Philistines learned the answer (14:18)
 8. He killed 30 Philistines and took their clothes to pay off the wager (14:19)
- D. "*Samson's wife was given to his companion*" by her father (14:20-15:1)
 1. Her father thought Samson hated her (15:2)
 2. Samson must have been an extremely fast runner for he caught 300 foxes, or jackals (15:3,4)
 3. These foxes, with a firebrand "*between every two tails*", did a lot of damage (15:4,5)
 4. Upon learning, who was responsible for the fires, the Philistines burned Samson's wife and "*her father with fire*" (15:6)
- E. In revenge, Samson "*smote them hip and thigh with a great slaughter*" (15:7,8)
- F. The men of Judah cowardly bound Samson "*with two new ropes*" and delivered him to the Philistines (15:9-13)
- G. Samson easily broke the ropes and with a jawbone of a donkey he killed a thousand Philistines (15:14-17)
 1. What an awesome feat ~ killing a thousand soldiers by yourself!
 2. He didn't use a gun, tank, bomb, etc.

- H. Samson gave God the glory for his victory (15:18; I Cor. 1:31)
- I. God miraculously provided water to quench Samson's thirst when He split the hollow place that is in Lehi (15:18.19 NKJV)
 - 1. (See footnote on the words "*Lehi*" and "*Enhakkore*" in ASV)
 - 2. God provides for those who do His will (Mt. 6:31-33)
- J. Samson judged Israel 20 years (15:20)

III. WHEN HE COMMITTED FORNICATION (Ex. 20:14)

- A. Samson committed fornication with a harlot who lived in Gaza the chief city of the Philistines (16:1)
 - 1. What business did Samson have being in Gaza?
 - 2. His sensual lust for Philistine women led him into sin (Jam. 1:13-15)
 - 3. He lacked self-control (II Pet. 1:5-7; Gal. 5:22-24)
- B. His sin placed him in grave physical danger (16:2)
- C. By God's grace, Samson was given the marvelous strength to escape death (16:3)
 - 1. It is hard to imagine how strong one would be to carry two massive doors, two posts, and a bar
 - 2. He pulled the two posts out of the ground and carried all this weight uphill
 - 3. Some scholars state that the distance was "a full quarter of a mile" or "between ten and eleven English, miles from Gaza" (I.S.B.E., Vol. IV; the Pulpit Commentary, Vol. III)
- D. All fornicating and adulterous relationships are condemned by God! (I Cor. 6:9,10 NKJV; Gal. 5:19-21)
- E. The Christian's body is "*the temple of the Holy Spirit*" and it is not to be used "*for sexual immorality but for the Lord*" (I Cor. 6:13-20 NKJV)
 - 1. Many today have deceived themselves into believing that premarital and extramarital sex is okay under some circumstances (Example: If both parties love each other and it is mutual consent, then it is okay.)
 - 2. I saw this quote on the CNN News on April 28, 1989: "53% of Americans surveyed feel that premarital sex is often, or sometimes, alright."
 - 3. (Read "Risky behavior starting earlier, new survey finds", Tampa Tribune, March 7, 1992)
- F. The sexual desire can be satisfied only with the one to whom you have joined yourself in marriage (Heb. 13:4)

CONCLUSION: Samson could resist a Philistine army, but not the charms of Philistine women. Are you resisting temptation? Are you keeping yourself pure? (I Tim. 5:22) Are you a Christian? Are you living up to the name "Christian"?

~ Don Hastings ~