

SAMSON: PHYSICALLY STRONG, MORALLY WEAK [3]

(Judges 13 -16)

INTRODUCTION: Samson was a very unique person for he did some things that no one else has ever done. (Example: He caught 300 foxes; he killed 1,000 men with a jawbone; he lifted up the gates of a city and carried them off: he shoved the two middle pillars off their base causing a temple to fall.) In spite of his great strength, he was a slave to passion. (Review the first two sermons.)

I. SAMSON SINNED BECAUSE HE GAVE IN TO PRESSURE FROM OTHERS

- A. His wife, "*because she pressed him sore*", was successful in pressuring him to telling her the answer to his riddle (14:17)
- B. He told Delilah the secret of the great strength which God gave him because "*his soul was vexed unto death*" with her constant complaining and nagging (16:16,17)
 1. Delilah was bribed into finding out the secret of Samson's great strength (16:4,5)
 - a. It is said, "Everyone has a price."
 - b. Regardless of the amount you are paid to do something sinful, the sin is not worth it (Rom. 6:23)
 - c. Judas would tell you, "Whatever the amount you are paid to disobey God, you have made a wretched exchange" (Mt. 27:3-5)
 - d. Don't sell out to Satan
 2. Delilah even told Samson the mean motive behind her desire to find out the secret of his strength (16:6)
 - a. He still told her the secret of his strength
 - b. This shows how passion can prevail over good judgment
 - c. Many people commit fornication, or adultery, even though they know it will bring a lot of grief to them and others
 3. Three times Samson lied to Delilah about the secret of his strength
 - a. The first time he said to bind him "*with seven fresh bowstrings*" (16:7-9 NKJV)
 - b. The second time he said to bind him with "*new ropes*" (16:10-12)
 - c. The third time he said to weave "*the seven locks of my head with the web*" (16:13, 14)
 4. Delilah said, "*How canst thou say, I love thee, when thy heart is not with me?*" (16:15)
 - a. Never fall for the old line, "If you love me, you will prove it by..."
 - b. The person who feeds you this line does not truly love you, or he would not be asking you to do something that would bring shame upon you (I Cor. 13:5)
 - c. Delilah certainly did not love Samson for she delivered him to those who tormented him
 5. Because Samson kept flirting with the temptation to reveal the secret of his strength, he finally revealed it (16:16-19)
 - a. It is foolish to see how close to sinning one can get
 - b. If you play with fire, you will be burned (Prov. 6:27)
 6. Because Samson's Nazirite vow had been broken, "*Jehovah was departed from him*" (16:20 ASV)
- C. Samson's parents should not have given in to him concerning his marriage to a Philistine (14:3,5,10)
- D. Can you be pressured into doing things that you know are wrong?

1. Children often give in to peer pressure to conform with the crowd (Example: drinking, drugs, cheating, immodest dress, filthy language, etc. - Rom. 12:2)
2. Parents often give in to their children and allow them to do things they know are wrong (Example: Going to dirty movies, watching vulgar television shows, forsaking the assembly, going out with worldly companions, etc.)
3. Husbands and wives are pressured by one another sometimes to sacrifice their convictions
4. Employers may pressure employees by threatening to fire them, or not giving them a promotion, if they don't drink with the big customers and laugh at their dirty jokes, or misrepresent their product or service
- E. Like Joseph, Daniel, the three Hebrew children, and other faithful servants of God, we must not sacrifice our convictions no matter how great the pressure may be! (Gen. 39:7-10; Dan. 3 and 6)
- F. Our attitude should be that even if we were threatened with death, we will not sin against God (Mt. 10:39; Acts 21:13,14)

II. SAMSON SINNED BECAUSE HE DID NOT LEARN FROM EXPERIENCE

- A. He kept falling in love with Philistine women and these women were members of a nation that were enemies of the Jews
- B. How smart is someone who keeps putting his hand on a burner of a stove and getting burned?!
 1. Haven't you ever wondered why someone keeps making the same mistake?
 2. A wise person will learn how to correct their mistakes and not make them again (Example: Math problem)
 3. How wise are we?
- C. We are extremely foolish if we keep falling into the same temptation over and over again (Example: Alcoholic who quits drinking, but goes back again to drinking; being with people who have enticed us to do wrong; etc. Mt. 6:13; I Thess. 5:22; Rom. 13:14)

III. SAMSON'S SINS COST HIM DEARLY

- A. His sins cost him his:
 1. Strength (16:19)
 2. Sight (16:21)
 3. Freedom (16:21) Sin enslaves - Jn. 8:34
 4. Family
 - a. "In that Gaza prison there was no mother's voice to comfort, no hand of his father to secure, and no friend's presence to sustain" (Samson's Sins and Other Sermons, by W. Winkler)
 - b. Our sins often drive those, whose friendship we value, **away** from us
 5. Self-respect (16:22-27)
 - a. The Philistines foolishly praised Dagon for the capture of Samson (16:22-24)
 - b. "Dagon was represented with the face and hands of a man and the tail of a fish." (Smith's Bible Dictionary, p. 132)
 - c. The Philistines made sport of Samson by making him play the buffoon (16:25-27)
 - d. Sin will cause you to lose your dignity and self-respect
 6. Life (16:28-31)
 - a. God answered Samson's prayer for strength to destroy the Philistines (16:28)

- b. What strength it must have taken to shove two middle pillars off their base causing the temple roof to come crashing down with about 3,000 men and women standing on it!

7. Fellowship with God (16:20)

- a. This was the greatest loss of all!
- b. How many of us has God left because of our sins?
- c. Like Samson, many of God's children are not even aware of the loss of His fellowship (I Jn. 1:5,6)

B. Our sins, from a spiritual viewpoint, will cost us all of these things and in addition eternal life (Rom. 6:23; Rev. 21:8)

C. What a terrible price to pay!

CONCLUSION: Perhaps, while Samson was spending dark, lonely hours grinding in the "prison-house", he thought about his wasted, sinful life and repented of his wickedness. His name is found among the heroes of faith in Hebrews 11:32-34. I do not believe he would have been listed there if he had not repented.

Will you repent of your sins and obtain forgiveness from the merciful Savior by being baptized into His death so His blood will wash away your sins? (Acts 22:16; Rom. 6:3,4) How foolish for you to die in your sins and suffer the torture your sins will bring eternally upon you when the means of salvation has been graciously provided!

~ Don Hastings ~