

# SAMSON AND DELILAH

## Int.

1. Aim: To show from the life of Samson how evil companion can ruin us.
2. **Judges 13-16**
3. Samson was a Nazarite - his father was Manoah
  - a. Mother had to abstain from every intoxicating drink - so did Samson
  - b. His hair had to remain uncut
  - c. He was set apart to God - he had great strength
4. What kind of man was Samson? He was a Judge of Israel for 20 years
  - a. Jovial, good-hearted, careless creature - not a prudent man
  - b. He had a sense of humor - 300 foxes, gates of city
  - c. Did not know the meaning of danger
  - d. Was very likeable and sociable - was a friend and friendly to everybody
  - e. Often associated with those of bad reputation as well as those of good behavior
5. The story of Samson is one of how evil friends destroyed him

## Discussion

### **I. EVIL FRIENDSHIP OF DELILAH**

- A. Woman - Delilah
  1. Lived in the land of the Philistines in Sorek - bad neighborhood
  2. Philistines were the enemy of God's people
  3. Samson went to see this woman - he loved her

B. Philistines wanted him taken as a prisoner

1. His strength was too much for them - on several occasions they had tried to take him
2. They hear that he is a good friend with Delilah
3. They offer her money to find the secret of his strength so they can take him captive
4. She accepts the Bribe - this shows that she was a wicked, evil woman

## **II. DELILAH - SAMSON'S DOWNFALL**

A. **First enquiry** - Judges 16:6-9

1. She asked him why he was so strong and how he could be made like any man
2. Here was the place for a plain straight NO !
  - a. A firm NO would have saved him
  - b. But maybe he thought he would offend Delilah
  - c. Perhaps it was exciting to tamper with this danger of losing his power
3. He didn't say NO, but he didn't say yes
  - a. Told her if he was bound with 7 green withes [cords] he would be weak
  - b. She tried it - but failed
  - c. Yet she did not fail for she had just begun to tamper with his secret of his great strength
4. There is safety in a plain downright NO!
  - a. Someone may try to get you to take a drink, gamble, curse, attend a filthy movie

- b. If you say: "I'd rather not" or "I guess I won't" or "I don't think I'd better." or "not tonight."
- c. Such an answer is a 3/4 yes
- d. You have not yielded but have opened the path for yielding
- e. The only safe way out is a plain firm NO !

B. 2<sup>nd</sup> Enquiry - Judges 16:10-12

- 1. She told him how he lied to her and she wanted to know the secret of his great strength
- 2. He still did not say NO, or yes. - but he said: "bind me with new ropes"
- 3. She tried it but it also failed to hold him
- 4. But she did not give up - evil does not tire of its purpose

C. 3<sup>rd</sup> Enquiry - Judges 16:13-14

- 1. She reminds him of how he has mocked her and lied to her
- 2. This time he gets a little closer to source of his strength
- 3. Weave the 7 locks of his head with the web - Judges 16:13
- 4. Didn't quite tell her but is right on the edge of telling his secret
- 5. It failed again

D. 4<sup>th</sup> and final enquiry - Judges 16:15-21

- 1. She begins by saying "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]." Judges 16:15 NKJV

2. How can you call me your friend? - this is the way it happens sometimes
    - a. You won't take a drink with me, curse with me, gamble with me nor help me make a little money in a dishonest way.
    - b. When we have this kind of relation with a companion we are in a bad spot
    - c. They accuse us of injuring them by failing to do evil with them
  3. Delilah pressed him daily and his soul was vexed unto death
  4. Finally he told her his heart - no razor has ever been upon my head - cut off my hair and I'll be weak
    - a. She knew this was the truth
    - b. She called for her lords or masters to come
  5. The end for Samson
    - a. His head was shaved - he was made weak
    - b. Taken as a prisoner - eyes put out - made to grind
    - c. They made sport of him at a big feast -he pulled down the pillars and all there were killed
- E. The lesson from Samson - evil friends destroy - 1 Cor 15:33 (ASV) "Be not deceived: Evil companionships corrupt good morals." (NKJV) "Do not be deceived: "Evil company corrupts good habits."

### **III. PRINCIPLES OF FRIENDSHIP**

#### A. Character is our great strength

1. What Samson's hair was to him, our character is to us
2. The great treasure of a human soul is his character
3. Prov. 22:1 "A [good] name [is] rather to be chosen than great riches, [and] loving favour rather than silver and gold."
4. Ecl. 7:1 "A good name [is] better than precious ointment; and the day of death than the day of one's birth."
5. Gold fields in California
  - a. Men will go to great efforts to get gold - search the water and sand
  - b. Sometimes huge hills are crumbled and every grain is searched - rocks blasted and ground to powder - searching for gold
  - c. Every Christian ought to have this same desire and greed for a noble character - character is the real treasure in life - not gold
6. There is a difference between character and reputation
  - a. Reputation is what men think you are - it is important to have this
  - b. Character is more important - for character is what we are
  - c. Jesus lost his reputation - because many no longer liked him - but he did not lose his character
  - d. To lose our reputation for standing up for what is right and good is bearable
  - e. 1 Pet. 4:15-16 "But let none of you suffer as a murderer, or [as] a thief, or [as] an evildoer, or as a busybody in other men's matters. 16 Yet if [any man suffer] as a Christian, let him not be ashamed; but let him glorify God on this behalf."

7. This is where Samson was lacking - his character was not sturdy enough to hold him to the side of right !

## B. Character Grows

1. A man's character develops as the years pass on
2. Our character is either getting better or getting worse, it never stays the same
3. It is either higher or lower, stronger or weaker
4. Samson did not have as good a character after his association with Delilah
5. His character was growing toward weakness and badness
6. Our Character grows all the time, either toward God or toward the Devil

## C. Friendship changes Character

1. Pure friends nurture and help our character to be pure
2. Evil friends lower our character
  - a. If you make your friends among the evil - among those who drink, tell dirty jokes, curse, live dishonestly...
  - b. Then your character will become like theirs
3. Delilah softly and swiftly dissolved the sacred vow of the Nazarite and made Samson weak as any other man
4. Your friends are the primary element in the upward growth or the downward growth of character !

## Conclusion

1. Summary of principles of friendship
  - a. A man's true treasure is his character
  - b. This character grows either better or worse all the time
  - c. The friends we have are either helping our character or ruining our character
2. 1 Cor. 15:33 (ASV) "Be not deceived: Evil companionships corrupt good morals."
3. Since our friends are so important then we ought to follow these two rules we learn from the story of Samson and Delilah:
  - a. Do not go into the land of the Philistines
    - i. Samson went into the land of the enemy to have his friends
    - ii. We should visit no place which will be filled with sinfulness just for the sake of going there to find friends or something to do
    - iii. Keeping out of bad places is a good way keep out of bad company
    - iv. Do not go to see evil, filthy movies or look at pornography
  - b. Do not go among the Philistines
    - i. If Samson had refused friendship of Delilah, a Philistine, he would not have lost the secret of his strength
    - ii. The advice of David in Psalms one is very good- Ps. 1:1-4 "Blessed [is] the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful. 2 But his delight [is] in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night. 3 And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper. 4 The ungodly [are] not so: but [are] like the chaff which the wind driveth away."

4. Evil friends destroyed Samson - they will destroy us - some of the last words of Samson were: **"Let me die with the Philistines"** Judges 16:30
5. Those who are friends of sinners will often die with them !
6. Chose your friends wisely !

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