Lessons from Samson and Delilah

Int.

1. Aim: To show some valuable lessons we can learn from the lives of these two people.

2. Judges 13-16 tells us about these two people and what happened.
   a. Their story is one of love, lies and loss.
   b. It is not genuine love and romance.
   c. It is a story of deception, greed, lust and destruction.

3. This story is a constant warning to anyone who would play around with sin. It shows us that sin is deceptive and it is deadly.

4. Samson was a Nazarite - his father was Manoah
   a. Mother had to abstain from grapes and every intoxicating drink - so did Samson
   b. His hair had to remain uncut - He was set apart to God - he had great super strength
   c. Judges 14:6 tells about a time when Samson came upon a wild lion that attacked him.
      But Samson tore the lion apart piece by piece with his bare hands and then went on his way.
   d. On another occasion in Judges 15:15, Samson went into battle against the Philistines, and killed a thousand warriors all by himself, using the jawbone of a donkey!

5. Who was this man was Samson? He was a Judge of Israel for 20 years
   a. He met a woman named Delilah, who was his downfall.
   b. The Philistines bribed her to discover the secret of his great strength
   c. When he finally told her his secret they captured Samson and make him a slave
   d. In his final act of revenge he killed himself and many people.

6. We can learn some valuable lessons from the life of Samson. Romans 15:4
Discussion

I. STORY OF LOVE

A. Samson loved a woman

1. Judges 16:4 "And it came to pass afterward, that he loved a woman in the valley of Sorek, whose name was Delilah."

2. This is the third woman of Samson

   a. There was the woman of Timnath - Judges 14:1-2
   
   b. There was the "harlot" in Judges 16:1
   
   c. Then "Delilah"

3. All three of them were Philistines.

   a. It appears that Samson had an attraction for women who should have been off limits to him as a man of God.
   
   b. It also appears that he had a problem with lust, which as a man of God, he should have fought against.
   
   c. Samson’s life was characterized by a series of illicit sexual relationships. There can be no doubt that this was a sin and a snare in his life, and that it hindered his ministry as a judge in Israel.

4. The same is true for people in our day.

   a. God gave us our sexual desires, and they are good when they are exercised in the proper context. That is, within the framework of marriage.
   
   b. Heb. 13:4 “Marriage is honourable in all, and the bed undefiled: but whoremongers and adulterers God will judge.”
   
   c. God wants His people to be sexually pure.
5. God tells us:
   a. 1 Cor. 6:18  "Flee fornication. Every sin that a man doeth is without the body; but he that committeth fornication sinneth against his own body."
   b. Matt. 5:27-28 "Ye have heard that it was said by them of old time, Thou shalt not commit adultery: 28 But I say unto you, That whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart."

6. The fact that Samson loved Delilah does not excuse him in his sin. Samson sinned because he was guilty of fornication.

7. There is a lot of sexual immorality in our world, even among Christians.
   a. Those who know the Lord must be careful to keep themselves clean and unpolluted by this immoral, godless world.
   b. Young people, you can wait until you are married to become sexually active.
   c. Single adults, you can keep your bodies as temples of the Holy Spirit.
   d. Married couples be faithful to your spouse both mentally and physically.

B. Delilah Loved Wealth – While Samson loved Delilah, she apparently did not love him.

1. The "lords of the Philistines" come to Delilah and offered her 1,100 pieces of silver each to discover and tell them the secret to Samson's power, v. 5.
   a. They want her to "entice" him. The word "entice," means "deceive, allure, flatter." It has the idea of "acting like an innocent person in order to deceive someone else."
   b. These men want her to play dumb and do everything she can to extract from Samson the secret of his power.
2. The ancient Philistines were a very superstitious people.
   a. They probably assumed that Samson possessed some kind of good luck charm, that gives him his power.
   b. They want to exploit his weakness for women to their advantage.
   c. They want to use her to find his secret.

3. Delilah is willing to go along with their plan because their offer of “1,100 pieces of silver each,” would make her a very wealthy woman.
   a. In today’s money it would be in the neighborhood of $750,000.00.
   b. She didn’t care about Samson; she only used him to get rich.
   c. He was her lottery ticket; her golden goose.

4. What a picture of the ways of sin this woman turns out to be.
   a. She represents exactly how Satan works in our lives.
   b. God doesn’t want us falling into the traps laid by modern Delilah’s and by the devil.
   c. He will enable us to escape the devil’s traps, if we look to Him for deliverance.
   d. “There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it. Wherefore, my dearly beloved, flee from idolatry,” 1 Cor. 10:13-14.

C. Samson and Delilah tell a story of love.
II. STORY OF LIES

A. Samson’s lies were senseless - when Delilah asks Samson about the source of his strength, he plays with her thinking that he is much smarter than she will ever be.

1. Judges 16:7-10 “Bind me with seven green withs” Bowstrings NKJV / cords
   a. This was some kind of vine that was made into a rope.
   b. So, Delilah binds him and tells him the Philistines are there. He breaks the “withs” as if they were a thread touched to fire.
   c. In verse 10, Delilah confronts Samson with his lies and begs him to tell her the truth.

2. Judges 16:11-13a “Bind me fast with new ropes”
   a. Green ropes are very strong. An ordinary man could not break them.
   b. He is toying with Delilah and with the Philistines. Delilah binds him with the ropes, and he breaks them as a man would break a piece of thread.
   c. Again, Delilah confronts Samson and demands that he tell her the truth.

3. Judges 13b - 14 “Weavest the seven locks of my head with the web”
   a. Samson tells Delilah to take a loom and to weave his hair into it.
   b. He is getting closer to revealing the real secret of his power.
   c. Samson is playing a dangerous game and he is about to get burned!
   d. Delilah does as he says and Samson simply gets up and walks away as if he was carrying nothing at all.

B. Samson was guilty of playing with sin

1. He knew the source of his strength, and he entered into a deadly game with Delilah

2. By the time he gets to the third deception, he is getting very close to the truth.
3. This is the problem with sin. People play with it.
   a. They go as far as they can without actually crossing the line into the forbidden. At least, that is what they think they are doing.
   b. Jesus made it very clear that sin in the heart is sin already, even if it is never carried out in the flesh, Matt. 12:34-35
4. Most people think they can control their sin. In truth, but for the grace of God, sin controls us, and it will be our master if we allow it a foothold in our lives.
5. Romans 6:11-14

C. Notice what the Bible says about this matter.
1. “But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed. Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death,” James 1:14-15.
2. The words “drawn away” mean, “to lure like game is lured from its hiding place.”
3. The word “enticed” means, “to lure by bait.” Each of us has natural lusts and cravings for sin.
4. There is a fleshly appetite within each of us that will control us if we allow it to.
5. Satan will entice us to sin by dangling his bait in front of us. When we bite, he springs the trap and we find ourselves ensnared in his web.

D. Instead of playing with sin, we should be like Joseph and put as much distance as we can between our temptation and ourselves, Gen. 39:7-12.
1. Too often we play around with sin, thinking we can control it, the reality is, it will control us if we give in to its deception.
2. Consider Eve in the Garden of Eden, Gen. 3:1-6. She listened to the serpent and fell into his trap. Adam followed Eve and the world fell into sin.
3. When we play with sin, we are always headed to a fall.
E. Delilah’s Lies Were Sinister

1. Samson lied to her because he thought he was smarter than she was.

2. She lied to him because she was far smarter than he was.

3. Delilah played her part well and she lured Samson onto her trap just as surely as a spider lures a fly into its web.

4. She played the “if you loved me you would” card. The Bible implies that she begged, pleaded, whined and cried day after day, all day long.

5. After a short while, her persistence wore Samson down

F. This is a picture of how sin works in us.

1. If we allow ourselves to be placed under the constant pressure of temptation, we too will be worn down.

2. Like Delilah, sin is relentless, aggressive and persistent. It will hammer away at our resistance until we give in to its advances. When we do, we always lose.

3. The best advice is to put as much distance as you can between yourself and the sources of sin and temptation in your life.

   a. Ask the girl who lost her purity to the boy who said, “If you love me you will.”

   b. Ask the man who traded his family for a woman who said, “If you love me you will.”

4. Playing with sin is like playing with fire; you will eventually be burned!

5. “Can a man take fire in his bosom, and his clothes not be burned? Can one go upon hot coals, and his feet not be burned?” Pro. 6:27-28.

6. The answer is no! You play with sin and you will always pay a price! You might not face the same thing Samson did, but you will pay a price for sin.
G. Satan will not stop until he has ruined your life.

1. Like Delilah, the lies of Satan and sin are sinister and destructive.

2. Ill. Not long after a wealthy contractor had finished building the Tombs prison in New York, he was found guilty of forgery and sentenced to several years in the prison he had built! As he was escorted into a cell of his own making, the contractor said, “I never dreamed when I built this prison that I would be an inmate one day.”

3. One day, we will have to answer for the things we do, Num. 32:23. “But if ye will not do so, behold, ye have sinned against the LORD: and be sure your sin will find you out.”

III. Story of Loss Judges 16:15-21

A. Delilah wore Samson down and he told her the truth.

1. He told her about his hair being a symbol of his Nazarite vow before God.

2. Samson trusted Delilah and believed that his secret was safe with her.

3. How foolish! No sooner is he asleep that she has a man cut off his hair. She began to "afflict him".

   a. This phrase means that she “humiliated him, or she began to mistreat him.”

   b. The former strong man has become weak in the hands of this woman.

   c. He cannot even defend himself against her because “his strength went from him.”

B. Delilah’s Losses Were Considerable -

1. In the end, Delilah really lost nothing. She was a sinner before this event and she remained one after this event.
2. The real tragedy is that Samson was supposed to be a man of God.
3. Because he allowed his passions to govern his life, he destroyed his influence in front of Delilah.
4. The aftermath of this story is easy to reconstruct.
   a. Delilah enjoyed the fruits of her deception. She instantly became a very wealthy woman.
   b. Financially, she was set for life. However, in the end, she lost everything.
   c. Eventually she dies, and when she did, she died in her sins and went to Hell.
   d. She gained nothing of lasting value while losing the things that valued the most, her own soul. In the end, she lost everything!
5. Mark 8:36-37, "For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? Or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?"

C. Samson’s Losses Were Complete - Samson lost everything of value, and he lost it immediately. Consider the high price Samson paid for indulging his sin.

1. He Lost Much Physically -
   a. v. 21 He Lost His Freedom - The Bible says that the Philistines "took him" and "bound him". No more could Samson go out and do as he pleased.
   b. v. 21 He Lost His Vision - The Philistines “put out his eyes”. They blinded him to make him easier to control.
   c. v. 21 He Lost His Dignity - the first time Samson came to Gaza it was for the purpose of finding pleasure, v. 1. This time he returns as the prisoner of the Philistines. They humiliated the mighty Judge of Israel by forcing him to labor as a slave.
d. All these things are pictures of sin’s power in our lives.

(1) Those who allow themselves to be taken in the trap of sin will find that sin has the power to bind, blind and grind.

(2) Sin binds men by enslaving them in habits that are hard to break.

2. **He Lost More Spiritually** - [This is the most expensive haircut in history!]

a. Our hair is important to us, think of how important it should have been to Samson.

b. His hair had never been cut. He was a Nazarite, and part of the vow he was required to take stipulated that Samson could not cut his hair, Num. 6:5.

c. Samson's hair was the external symbol of his commitment to God. It identified him as a man set apart for God's glory and God's use.

d. As long as Samson allowed the Lord to control his hair he was fine, but when he allowed Delilah to take control of his hair, he lost his power with God.

e. This passage describes what is easily the most expensive haircut in the history of the world.

3. Notice what this haircut cost Samson Spiritually

a. **He Lost His Fellowship With God** - “the Lord was departed from him” -

(1) When Samson allowed his hair to be cut, he crossed the final line with God. In that moment, Samson was declaring that he loved Delilah more than he loved God.

(2) He was saying that he loved his life of sin more than he loved his life as a servant of God. Samson's power did not derive from his hair.
(3) God left him, and when He did, God took Samson's power away as well. He paid a high price for his sin!

(4) So will we! If we want power with God in prayer and in our daily lives, we must live clean and close. We must address our sins and put God first in our lives. There can be no room for sin in the lives of those who want power with God.

(5) Sin drives a wedge between the saint of God and God. We cannot have both!

(6) Eph. 4:21-32

b. He Lost His Spiritual Discernment -

(1) The saddest statement in these verses might be the words "wist not" in verse 20.

(2) When Samson awoke, he did not even know that God had left him.

(3) Sin's grip on his life was so great that he did not know the power of God had been removed from his life. He assumed that God would be on him like He always had been.

(4) He taken God for granted for so long that he wasn't even aware when God left him. That was an expensive haircut!

(5) There is nothing sadder than someone who claims to know the Lord, thinking they are living in the will of God, when God is nowhere around them. That is a tragedy, but such is the result of sin.

(6) How tragic it is when people allow sin to strip of them of all the things that matter.
Lessons from Samson and Delilah

He Lost His Ministry -
(1) Because of his sin, the Lord put Samson on the shelf. He was removed as the Judge over Israel. He was no longer a vessel fit for God’s use.
(2) That same can happen to us. It was Paul’s fear, “But I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway,” 1 Cor. 9:27.
(3) The word “castaway” refers to that which is “unfit, reprobate, not standing the test”. It was used of coins that were tested and not found to be struck from real gold. In other words, they were worthless.
(4) Paul’s fear was that he would become worthless to the Lord. So, Paul took the necessary steps to overcome his flesh.
(5) Paul took the initiative. He mastered his flesh instead of allowing the flesh to master him.

He Lost His Influence -
(1) Samson, the strong man, the mighty Judge, was taken to a Philistine prison and made to do the work of the lowest kind of slave.
(2) In other words, he was humiliated in the eyes of the enemy.
(3) Did you ever stop to consider that God was humiliated right along with Samson?
(4) When they laughed at Samson, v. 23-24, they were mocking his God as well. A victory over Samson was considered to be a victory over God.
(5) When we fail in the flesh; when the traps of the devil ensnare us; when we fall into sin, we bring reproach on the name of the Lord.
(6) When a child of God sins it always harms the cause of Christ.
(7) God is so closely identified with His people that our shame in the eyes of the world and the devil translates into His shame as well.

(8) 2 Sam. 12:14, "Howbeit, because by this deed thou hast given great occasion to the enemies of the LORD to blaspheme, the child also that is born unto thee shall surely die."

(9) 1 Tim. 6:1, "Let as many servants as are under the yoke count their own masters worthy of all honour, that the name of God and his doctrine be not blasphemed."

(10) The lesson from this ought to be crystal clear. What we do matters.

(11) There is nothing more shameful and harmful to the cause of Christ than a damaged influence.

(12) When we allow sin to rule in these bodies, it will always tarnish our influence and bring dishonor to the name of our God.

(13) May it never be!

CONCLUSION

1. This is a sad, tragic story? Samson and Delilah’s life can be summed up by these words:
   a. Love,
   b. Lies
   c. Loss

2. This is the familiar story of Sin:
   a. Sin takes you farther than you want to go
      i. Samson started off chasing after loose women. He became prideful because he wasn’t harmed by his earlier sins.
ii. But he kept going deeper and deeper into sin. He had plenty of warning, but he ignored them.

b. Sin and its consequences will hold you longer than you want to stay
   i. Samson was imprisoned, grinding out wheat
   ii. He could not escape

c. Sin will cost you more than you are willing to pay
   i. Samson lost his eyes
   ii. And he lost his life.

3. Romans 6:23 “For the wages of sin is death: but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.”

4. Samson was noted because of his great Strength.
   a. We today are not as strong as Samson was
   b. But we can do something that Samson did not.
   c. We can obey God. So ask yourself, which would you rather be in God’s sight—strong and tricky, or humble and obedient?
   d. Being strong physically does not take the place of Obedience to God.

5. 1 Cor. 10:11 “Now these things happened unto them by way of example; and they were written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the ages are come”

6. Was Samson forgiven?
   a. God will forgive anyone who repents
   b. Samson prayed. God heard his prayer and answer it.
   c. God listed him in Heb. 11:32 then in v. 39 we read: “And these all, having obtained a good report through faith, received not the promise:”
d. All these, though they did not live to see fulfilled the promise relating to the personal coming of the Messiah, were nevertheless through their faith in God enabled to do and to suffer what has obtained for them a good report; a reputation for noble daring and patient endurance, which gives them a place in the first rank of moral heroes. [Gospel Advocate Commentary on Hebrews]

7. Are you Forgiven?
   a. Obey the Gospel - Hear, Believe, Repent, Confess, Baptized
   b. Repent and confess your sins as an erring Christian.

---

Sermon by Arthur Pigman - Sunday Morning April 22, 2012
Evans Church of Christ
515 Gibbs Road
Evans, Ga. 30809
706-855-1249
evanscoc@bellsouth.net
www.evansgachurchofchrist.org