

## How Will You Learn Life's Lessons?

Judges 16:4-31

### Introduction

- A. Life's lessons are often learned the h\_\_\_\_\_ way
  - 1. Learning the h\_\_\_\_\_ and turmoil is a painful way to learn.
  - 2. How will you learn life's lessons?
- B. Samson had to learn a life lesson the hard way.

### Sinful Choices (4-20)

- A. How do we live our lives?
  - 1. Before coming to faith in Christ, all we could do was s\_\_\_\_\_ (Rom 6:20)
    - a. Sin is defined as missing the mark that God has set (we fall s\_\_\_\_\_ of that mark - Rom 3:23).
    - b. The mark that God has set is to g\_\_\_\_\_ Him (i.e. we need to make everything about Him).
  - 2. After coming to Christ, we became f\_\_\_\_\_ from sin's power (Rom 6:18) - Believers in Christ have a c\_\_\_\_\_ of whether to sin or not (i.e. to glorify God or not).
- B. Samson's choices
  - 1. Verse 4 states that Samson *loved* a Philistine woman (many versions correctly translate as *fell in love with*).
    - a. The Hebrew word is a common word for romantic love that does not involve a sexual relation (e.g. Gen 29:18 – Jacob *loved* Rachel and said he would work \_\_\_\_\_ years for her father to gain her hand in marriage).
    - b. The story of Samson and Delilah does not emphasize a sexual weakness as his downfall.
    - c. Delilah loved m\_\_\_\_\_ more than she loved Samson (1100 pieces of silver from each of the five Philistine lords would conservatively equal 11 \_\_\_\_\_ dollars in today's money – see Jdg 17:10).
  - 2. Samson chose to love Delilah more than he loved God.
    - a. Three times Delilah asks Samson to reveal the s\_\_\_\_\_ of his superhuman strength and how he could be rendered powerless.
      - 1) Each time Samson fed her f\_\_\_\_\_ information
      - 2) Each time Delilah tries to render him powerless and then s\_\_\_\_\_, *the Philistines are upon you!*
      - 3) Each time Samson demonstrated that his strength was still in him and scares off the Philistines.

- b. The fourth time was a result of Delilah n\_\_\_\_\_ Samson daily (*if you really love me, you will tell me*) – Samson finally revealed all that was in his heart (v. 16)
- 1) He told her his life’s purpose of s\_\_\_\_\_ God as a Nazirite (v. 17 – see also Jdg 13:7)
  - 2) He told her that because he was a Nazirite, his hair had never been cut.
  - 3) He told her that if his head was shaved, then he would lose his s\_\_\_\_\_.
- c. Delilah had Samson’s head shaved while he was s\_\_\_\_\_.
- 1) The scriptures do not say that Samson did not know that his head had been shaven (he knew – but he still believed that he had his strength – v. 20)
  - 2) The scriptures say that Samson did not know that the Lord had d\_\_\_\_\_ from him – v. 20, showing that his strength came from the Lord’s presence, not his hair.
- d. The Lord departed from Samson because he broke his Nazirite vow by allowing his head to be shaved (see Num 6) – Samson made Delilah more i\_\_\_\_\_ than his life’s purpose of serving God as a Nazirite.
- C. Two points of application
1. Money
    - a. I Tim 6:10 – the l\_\_\_\_\_ of money is the root of all kinds of evil (e.g. lying, stealing, murder, divorce)
    - b. I Tim 6:17-19
      - 1) Don’t put your h\_\_\_\_\_ in money but in God.
      - 2) Use money to serve p\_\_\_\_\_ and God by being generous and ready to share.
  2. Love relationships
    - a. Deut 6:5 – we are to love the Lord with \_\_\_\_\_ our heart, soul, and strength. Only the Lord deserves this position (He created us, sent Jesus to die for our sins, works all things out for our good – Rom 8:28).
    - b. All relationships must be put under the l\_\_\_\_\_ship of Jesus – He knows how to build healthy relations.

### **Suffering Consequences (21)**

- A. What consequences did Samson suffer for breaking his vow?
1. He was c\_\_\_\_\_ by the Philistines (lost his strength)
  2. His e\_\_\_\_\_ were gouged out
  3. He was c\_\_\_\_\_ and imprisoned
  4. He was forced to work as a g\_\_\_\_\_

- B. Application – sin can have short-term, long-term, or l\_\_\_\_\_ -long consequences.
1. Lying can result in a loss of t\_\_\_\_\_.
  2. Sexual promiscuity can result in an STD, an unwanted p\_\_\_\_\_, divorce, etc.
  3. Loss of temper can result in prison, losing parental rights, etc.
  4. Lust can result in injury (watch where you are going!), a polluted mind, lack of meaningful marriage, etc.

**Surrender Control (22-31)**

- A. The Philistine lords throw a festival to celebrate the defeat of Samson.
1. Credit is given to the god, D\_\_\_\_\_ (v. 24).
  2. Samson is placed by the supporting pillars of the structure as a means of e\_\_\_\_\_ (v. 25)
- B. Samson’s hair began to grow (v. 22)
1. The narrator has already told us that Samson l\_\_\_\_\_ his strength because the Lord had departed from him (v. 20)
  2. This statement is recorded as a reminder of Samson’s l\_\_\_\_\_ purpose of serving God as a Nazirite.
    - a. Samson cries out to God to r\_\_\_\_\_ his strength and God answers his prayer (v. 28)
    - b. Samson pushes the s\_\_\_\_\_ pillars, collapsing the building on 1000’s of Philistines along with himself (v. 30)
  3. Samson had remembered whom He served, surrendered control back to the Lord, and finished his life well.
- C. Application
1. We have a f\_\_\_\_\_ God – when we believers sin, we are immediately forgiven because of Jesus’ sacrifice on the c\_\_\_\_\_.
  2. God is not obligated to remove the c\_\_\_\_\_ of our sin.
  3. When you sin and suffer the consequences
    - a. R\_\_\_\_\_ and determine to never repeat that sin
    - b. L\_\_\_\_\_ from that failure.
    - c. S\_\_\_\_\_ control back to the Lord and move forward in your life by living out your relationship to the Lord.

*How will you learn life’s lessons?*