

"The Art of Seduction, Judges 16:4-20

Tonight we want to take a look at the book of Judges in chapter 16. Last week we took a look in the book of Judges 16:1-3, and we took a look at Samson, and we mentioned to you that it was time to say goodbye, and that he was beginning to fall apart in that area of sin. That it had been 20 years since he had gotten involved in a relationship, and he had a real major problem with women. He was constantly going after the Philistine women. He couldn't stay away from them.

We know according to God's word, he had three different relationships. You remember he had the relationship down in Timnath; there he wanted to marry one of the Philistine women in chapter 14. Then we find that in chapter 16, he went down, in verses 1-3. to the harlot there in Gaza. And now we come to this woman named Delilah. And so this is the third woman, and this is the time that she is going to take him out. The first was just a girlfriend that he was thinking about marrying. It never happened. God delivered him. Second, was a harlot, prostitute, and once again he did it, and then he almost in a sense mocked I believe, God, as he tore the gates off the city and probably was laughing the whole way; as he was laughing because no one could touch him. No one could stop him. And no doubt he felt he could get away with it, and I think there are times in our lives we honestly think we are getting away with something. But I believe that we misunderstand the righteousness of God, and what we should be thinking is that we really didn't get away with it, but God is waiting for us to repent. And God will give you a season, and God desires that you would learn instantly the importance of a life of repentance. That you wouldn't wait. And sometimes we misread God, thinking that because He doesn't judge or He doesn't deal with our life, He has approved. And I believe that most of us somehow we get our signals crossed with God, and when things don't happen and we get away with certain things, we

believe, believe it or not, that we are above other people. And I think it happens quite a bit when it comes to senior pastors and politicians and people with authority. That for some reason, even myself, and Kevin, for some reason we think that because we have been able to do something and have not been dealt with, that God didn't see it. And so we kind of get this mentality that we are above the people, above the word of the Lord. Samson felt that he was above his parents. He was above his friends. He was above his God. And so God had no other choice but to lay him low, and it was a devastating blow. And so tonight we want to take a look at verses 4 all the way down to verse 20. And next week I was going to do the whole chapter, but next week I want to do a special study on restoration. How God can restore a failure, because the very last thing that we begin to read in the book of Judges in chapter 16, is after his eyes were taken out, and he was binded to that mill and he was grinding and as they were mocking him and making fun of him, one of the things that they forgot to do, the Philistines, they forgot to keep his hair short. And the bible says his hair began to grow, and it was because of the commitment begin to grow in his heart that he said, "Lord, one more time, let me honor Your name". And so we find that the very end of his life, God restored him. And in that one moment of God's power, he did more than 20 years of his whole life. And I think there is hope, tremendous hope for some of us who feel that we have made a horrible mistake with our children, or in our marriage, or in our education, or in our dating relationship. God is able to restore, and God loves to give us a second chance, and that is next week.

But today, tonight, we need to take a look at what happened. What did it really cost Samson? And what happened in a way, and who was this woman Delilah? And so we pick up the story, and if you are taking notes, you can jot down, "The Art of Seduction". And this woman had it together, she was a master and she was able to vex his soul to the point that he wished he was dead. **And it came to pass** in versus 16, I just want to read a few things to you, in verses 16-20, and then we will pick up as we go back. **And it came to pass, when she pressed him daily with her words, and urged**

him, so that his soul was vexed unto death: (Judges 4:16.) In other words, she was able to be like a dripping faucet, she drove him crazy. **That he told her all his heart** (underline that, that is the key) **he told her all his heart**. You say, why is that the key? Jesus, you remember said, Where, your heart is, there is your treasure. And here is what I disagree with dating relationships, that just because you date someone, it does not give you the right to open your heart. It says, that when Hezekiah was feeling good, that he opened the treasure house to the King of Babylon. And when Nebuchadnezzar came in and saw everything that Hezekiah had, all the gold, that Nebuchadnezzar never forgot that and so he planned from that day to come back and to take it.

And it is interesting that the people who commit adultery, or the people that commit fornication, it never starts with a sexual thing. It always starts kind of with a friendship or sharing our hearts or sharing our thoughts. It would be kind of like me saying to another gal, hey, how are you doing? And she is back and forth and have you heard what God is doing, and she shares with me a verse, and I share with her a verse, and I begin to pour my devotional life into her. Not doing it at home, but with her, and all of a sudden there is a connection spiritually, and so I basically have given my heart to this woman, and then the fleshly thing is just right around the corner. So the key is that if you are opening your heart on a dating relationship or in a friendship you need to be careful. God needs to know your heart, your spouse needs to know your heart, but really no one else needs to know that. You can confess your problems, you can share your problems, but when you begin to get so close you will eventually fall often times into sin. And it says, **That he told her all his heart, and said unto her, There hath not come a razor upon mine head; for I *have been* a Nazarite unto God from my mother's womb: if I be shaven, then my strength will go from me, and I shall become weak, and be like any *other* man.** (Judges 16:17.) He finally blows it. He has been flirting with all the promises of God. He has been hanging out in the vineyard. He has been touching the things that have been dead. He's been going

into the vineyard, in other words, every commitment of a Nazarite, he has broken except one. Revealing really the secret of his strength and it wasn't in his hair. People think, well his strength was in his hair. No. His strength was in his commitment, but in the vow it would require you not to shave your head. So by telling, and you would always break your vow. Paul broke that vow in the New Testament when he went into the temple and he shaved his head. So you would break it by the shaving of your head. So he broke that when he began to share. **And when Delilah saw** (underline that, when she saw in verse 18) **that he had told her all his heart** (she knew, she knew when she had him, she went after him three different times but this time she knew she had wore him out, and) **he had told her all his heart, she sent and called for the lords of the Philistines, saying, Come up this once, for he hath showed me all his heart. Then the lords of the Philistines came up unto her, and brought money in their hand.** (Judges 16:18.) So she was paid, there was a reason. **And she said, The Philistines *be* upon thee, Samson. And he awoke out of his sleep, and said, I will go out** (underline that, that is the whole key of the whole book of Samson) **I will go out** (check this out) **as at other times before,** (You don't need to understand anything more. He believed in his own strength as I did it before, I can do it again. As I took the gates down, I can get out of this mess. As I killed the Philistines, I am going to be able to deliver myself. He believed in what he was doing, but never saw the grace of God. He said, the Philistines are upon me.) **And said I will go out as at other times before and shake myself.** (I am going to get myself out of this) **And he wist not that the Lord was departed from him."** (Judges 16:20) What a tragic thing. When all of a sudden he jumped up, and before he had destroyed these Philistines, but this time they simply grabbed him, bound him, plucked his eyes out, tied him, shaved him and took him away. In other words, they just humiliated him. And I wonder what he thought? What went through his mind?

And so we begin to realize that this is a problem. We find last week he was with a harlot, a one-night stand, but here it throws it into a relationship. And I think that is

important. That when we think it is only a one-time thing, often times it can become a lifetime issue. I am just going to take this heroin one time, but then it has you. I am just going to get involved in this one extra affair one time, and then it has you hooked. I am going to push that button one time on the Internet, and then the pornography has you. I am going to spend that check one time, and then you keep spending it for the rest of your life, and that is the danger.

And Samson would tell you; it's just a one-night stand. What's the problem? I am not hurting anyone. I am not in the way, and sin will always say that. Sin will start with a girlfriend, sin will take you with a harlot, and finally sin will take you out in a relationship every single time. It's just once in awhile. In other words, what happens if you saw Kevin and I at dinner, maybe we were eating road kill. You know we found this dead animal, and we took it home and we cooked it, you came over, and it didn't smell real good, it didn't look real good and Kevin and I are just so excited we can't wait to get our hands into it. And it is all squashed, and it's about that big, you know, it's just road kill and there we are and Kevin is beginning to cut into it, and you are horrified. And all of a sudden you are saying, "Guys, do you know what you are doing?" Yeah, we are going to enjoy this road kill. Man does it look good." And then you would say, "Are you kidding me? Are you really going to eat that?" And then Pastor Steve would say, but we only do it once in awhile. In other words, I am only going to sin once in awhile. It's putrid. It's terrible when you begin to realize how horrible it is. And no doubt Samson's real problem was he was laughing all the way. And that is what sin does it begins to blind you. It begins to put you in a place that you are above everything else. It leads you to a point that you are not making good decisions. And so now you are living with the enemy. You are living on the wrong side, and there is no fear of God whatsoever. That is the power of sin that we talked about a couple of weeks ago. And the major problem of Samson's life is this: I am smarter than God. God is not going to deal with me because I am in charge. And I am smarter than my mom and dad. Don't tell me, I want that woman, get her. And I am

smarter than the enemy, because I can beat him every single time. But let me tell you what happened. It was his mom and dad that prayed for him, and it was God that was beginning to work on him, and it was the Philistines that never took their eye off of him, and they wanted him out and so they came, they set this woman up, they paid for this woman, Delilah. They knew she could do it and this woman, kind of interesting, it says, she was sent.

And I want to challenge you tonight that Satan is seeking to send things into your life that will distract you from God. And you think you can break him, but the problem is they are wiser than you are. They are stronger than you are, and because you are on the wrong side of the fence, or you are flirting or toiling, you are going to get trapped. And I think it is important to realize that she is not just a Delilah. This woman was sent, she had a mission; she had a calling in her life. She was to destroy Samson. She was every woman's nightmare and every guy's delight. This woman was incredibly corrupt, and she knew how to get him, and she kept on going after him in a very powerful way. In fact, she broke him, and she devastated him. She went after the prophet of God. She annihilated him. She put him down for the count. She took him out of the ministry. She knew exactly what she was doing, and she was going to be set for the rest of her life because she was being paid. Satan is going to seek to do everything he can in your life.

And the problem with Samson, he had power, and listen, without purity. You ought to write that down, "power without purity." And that was the danger of his whole life, in other words, he had all this power. And one last thing, Delilah doesn't need to be a woman. Delilah can be a job. Delilah can be the pulpit or the worship, or it can be anything within your life, anything to distract you, anything to take you away from the calling of God in your life.

And so we pick up the story here in chapter 16:4, we find Samson now beginning to compromise for the very last time. **And it came to pass afterward,** (after he had this relationship with the harlot and so he sold it and now he is going to reap in a powerful way) **that he loved a woman in the valley of Sorek, whose name was Delilah.** (Judges 16:4.) Now no one has named his or her kid Delilah after this story whatsoever. So this woman, so he loved this woman. And here Sorek is a word that means grapes. So you remember according to the Nazarene vow, he is not to be around grapes. He is not to be in the Philistine town. He is in a Philistine town, not only is he in a Philistine town, but the town is called the valley of grapes, so he is among the grapes, and he is with a woman. And it is also by a border. It is a border town. Now I think of Tijuana is a border town, and how many people get in trouble with border towns? We are tempted to go across and have a good time. I think we need to get away from those areas of our life that are dangerous. But the problem is, hey, Tijuana sounds fun. We can jump across, live in sin and come back. But boy when you are caught and thrown in a Tijuana jail, it is going to be the horrible moment of your life. And so there is this border, this desire to live, and then I get caught. And so Samson here, all of a sudden, begins to realize he is in serious trouble. And Delilah becomes a bridge. A bridge that brings Samson into the Philistine world, and also a bridge that is going to destroy the work of God in his life.

And it says in verse 5, **And the lords of the Philistines came up unto her, and said unto her, entice him, and see wherein his great strength lieth,** (so they couldn't figure it out. So that tells me that he wasn't physically strong. He probably was very small and kind of thin, but something was about him. There was a Spirit upon his life, and we read that the Spirit of God came upon him. And then you remember the Spirit began to move in his life, and when the Spirit came he was able to rip a lion in half. He was able to kill a thousand men, and he was able to take the gates off of Gaza and take off Gaza and take off. In other words, his whole power was by the Spirit of the living God.) **entice him and see wherein his great strength lieth and by**

what means we may prevail against him, that we may bind him to afflict him:

In other words don't kill him, but we want to grab him; we want to afflict him; we want to torment him, **and we will give thee every one of us eleven hundred pieces of silver.** (Judges 16:5.)

So there were five of these Philistine kings, each of them was willing to give eleven hundred, so that would be fifty-five hundred pieces of silver. She would be a multi-millionaire overnight. And all she had to do was entice him, and turn him over to these people. And then we read in verse 6, **And Delilah said to Samson, Tell me, I pray thee, wherein thy great strength lieth, and wherewith thou mightiest be bound to afflict thee.** (Judges 16:6.) You know, hey honey, tell me how I can destroy you? I mean, and he is just there; "aah baby" look at those blue eyes, I mean oh! What do you want? Tell me how I might afflict you, and destroy you and annihilate you. Oh honey, I just love it when you talk mean to me. I mean, you see maybe we didn't read it right. **And Delilah said to Samson, Tell me, I pray thee, wherein thy great strength lieth, and wherewith thou mightiest be bound to afflict thee."** (Judges 16:5.) I mean do you understand what I am saying? Tell me, oh my lover, how I might tie you up and beat you and just beat the tar out of you? Tell me how I can destroy you, and take away everything good in your life and he is looking at her and saying, oh man! Man I love it, and he is laying there, eating grapes and looking into her eyes, and she has him right in her lap. And behind that skin is Satan.

Do you think, Oh! What an idiot! I agree. But you see sin blinds, and sometimes I see the way men treat their wives. And we try to talk to them, but they don't see it. And sometimes we try to tell our teenagers what they are doing and they don't want to hear it. And sometimes you try to help a pastor because you see that he going down a wrong path, and he doesn't want to hear it and sometimes you try to help a staff member but, you know, they are bent. In other words, they are hooked where they want to be hooked, and they don't want to hear the truth. And I just want to tell you

that when you begin to go down this road of sin, it will blind you, and Satan will begin to lay things out that you know will destroy you, but you really won't hear it. And so we can laugh, but we think my goodness, Samson, get up and get out, but she has him. Now he knows he can get up because we read in verse 20, I will jump up as I did afore time and get out of here, but she knows she has him. She has him eating out of her hand, drinking out of her cup, and she knows he is real close to giving her his heart. And Satan has done a work in a very powerful way. Twenty years have gone by and now its coming down to the time, and I notice just a couple things in verse 4, it says, once again named Delilah, this woman.

If you have your bibles, turn with me for a few moments to the book of Proverbs, chapter 6. I think this is important and I want to lay this out, and you need to jot this down, especially you guys. But in Proverbs 6:26-29, I want to show you the danger of loving a woman outside of God's will. It says in Proverbs 6:26-29, **For by means of a whorish woman** (a harlot, a prostitute, a babe) **a man is brought to a piece of bread:** In other words, you can have everything, you can have cars and you can have three-car garages and you can have pool tables, but when this woman gets done with you because you commit adultery, you are going to have a piece of bread. In other words, it's going to annihilate your life. **and the adulteress will hunt for the precious life. Can a man take fire in his bosom, and his clothes not be burned? Can one go up on the hot coals, and his feet not be burned? So he that goeth into his neighbor's wife; whosoever toucheth her shall not be innocent.** (Proverbs 6:26-29.)

So here is the thing, hey, I can go out and commit adultery, I can have a little bit of fornication, it's no biggie. God says, it's going to burn you; you are going to get burnt. Now turn with me one chapter back to Proverbs 5:3, and he says here Solomon to his son in chapter 5:3 of Proverbs. **For the lips of a strange woman drop as an honeycomb,** (I mean their lips just drip with honey) **and her mouth is smoother**

than oil: (Proverbs 5:3.) I mean when they look at you, have you ever looked at guy's lips, I mean they are kind of gross. But boy, when a woman gets done with those silky lips, Hi, How are you doing? They just, anyway, you know what I am saying. **But her end is bitter as wormwood, sharp as a two edged sword. Her feet go down to death; her steps take hold on hell.** (Proverbs 5:4-5.) Let me give you one more one more just to kind of drive this point home. In Proverbs 7:21, and this is good for men too and women because we all have a problem in the area of lust.

In Proverbs 7:21, **With her much fair speech she caused him to yield,** (in other words, come on honey, buy the pillow. I mean my wife does that all the time. Honey, can we just, it happened the other day. I said I would paint one bathroom. But we had about half the gallon left, she goes we have just enough for the bathroom upstairs. I go well okay, and then she said, could we put some things on the walls and see how it looks in our guest bedroom? I said, okay, not even thinking that once I did that I was going to have to paint that. So she got three rooms out of just a bathroom. How do they do that? And then she wants to go in the mall, and she says, well it is raining. You know we can walk in the mall. Are you crazy? Well no. What's wrong with you? I am not going to the mall with you. I'll go on one condition. 1) You leave the credit cards at home, and 2) you don't stop at any stores. Well, why go there? We are going to walk. We are not going to meander. We are going to walk. What is walking? Hey, can I go in here? Hey, can I go in here? Hey, can I go in here? Charge, I want to get out of there. So it is an amazing thing, I don't know how they do it, but they are gifted.) **He goeth after her straightway, as an ox goeth to the slaughter, (myself) or as a fool to the correction of the stocks; Till a dart strikes through his liver; (I have to sign that Visa) as a bird hasteth to the snare, and knoweth not that it is for his life. Harken unto me now therefore, O ye children, and attend to the words of my mouth. Let not thine heart decline to her ways, go not astray in her paths. For she hath cast down many wounded: yea, many strong men have been slain by her. Her house is the way to hell, going down**

to the chambers of death. (Proverbs 7:22-26.) In other words, Samson, what are you doing? I'm just hanging out. Very dangerous and the temptation, she began to entice him, and Satan seeks to entice you constantly.

And so in verse 6, **And Delilah said to Samson, Tell me, I pray thee, wherein they great strength lieth, and wherewith thou mightiest be bound to afflict thee.** (Judges 16:6.) And so once again, she begins to hound him. Now it is interesting when I think about this, is that the woman from Timnath, you remember, she was weeping and she was crying because Samson would not tell her the riddle. And then you remember again now this woman Delilah, she is angry again because he would not reveal his heart. Samson didn't have his strength. He shouldn't have been there. In verse 7, **And Samson said unto her, if they bind me with seven raw leathers or bow strings that were never dried, then shall I be weak, and be as another man.** (Judges 16:7.) So if they tie my hands, I am going to be weak. He hasn't touched the hair, but he is beginning to get close. And so if you tie me, now, you remember, he is not to touch anything that is dead. So here he is saying to her, if you will tie me with dead animal guts, if you will tie me with these dead strings, if they are kind of still fresh, that is going to do it. In other words, he is now playing with God and mocking God and playing with the fire, when he should never have done that, but he had to do it. He had to challenge. So he beat it one time. He touched the animal, nothing happened. He took the jawbone of a donkey, slewed a thousand, nothing happened. Put his hand inside the lion of a dead carcass, nothing happened. Hey, tie my hands with a dead animal. Hey, nothing is happening. Now check this out: **Then the lords of the Philistines brought up to her seven raw leather bowstrings which had not been dried, and she bound him with them.** (Judges 16:8.) So, she put him to sleep, no doubt. Drank a little whatever, he was knocked out. **Now there were men lying in wait,** (so they were hiding somewhere) **abiding with her in the chamber. And she said unto him, The Philistines be upon thee, Samson. And he brake the leather bowstrings as easy thread touching the**

fire. So his strength was not known. (Judges 16:9.) And he just whipped him, he beat him, and all of sudden he turns around and no doubt, she said, you're my hero. You are an incredible guy, and then Samson lies back down. And we pick up the story in verse 10; **And Delilah said unto Samson, Behold, thou hast mocked me,** (in other words, Samson you mocked me) **and told me lies: now tell me, I pray thee, wherewith thou mightiest be bound.** (Judges 16:10.) In other words, how can you do that honey? Tell me the truth, because I want to afflict you, and I want to make your life miserable. Don't lie to me; I don't want to be mocked. This woman is one sharp cookie. Tell me, how can I deceive you? What can I do? **And he said unto her, If they bind me fast with new ropes that never were occupied, then shall I be weak, and be as another man.** (Judges 16:11.)

Delilah therefore took new ropes, and bound him therewith, and said unto to him, The Philistines *be* upon thee, Samson. And *there were* liers in wait abiding in the chamber. And he brake them from off his arms like a thread. And Delilah said unto Samson, Hitherto thou hast mocked me, and told me lies: tell me wherewith thou mightiest be bound. And he said unto her, If thou weavest the seven locks (or braids of my hair) of my head with the web. (or with the fabric of the loom.) (Judges 16:12-13.) Now this is really where it begins to fall apart. Hey, honey, you loved me, tell me what to do? Take these dead animal skins, tie my hands. Hey, if you really love me, you are going to tell me. Take those ropes and tie my hands.

Now when, all of the sudden, the pressure comes on, he goes real close to the truth, he is breaking. And you know when you are breaking because you give in to weakness. You know when you are in trouble because now you are sipping the wine and sipping the drink and back doing the things that you know you shouldn't do, but it's not that bad yet. You are kind of knowing you think you can get over it and, all of sudden, he says if you take my hair and weave it seven times, that's really the answer. So now he

is really close to finding out the pain of his life. **And she fastened *it* with the pin, and said unto him, The Philistines be upon thee, Samson. And he awoke out of his sleep, and went away with the pins of the beam, and with the web.**

(Judges 16:14.) Now you got to get the picture. If I could do a movie, I'd show him here with gut strings on his back just dripping with blood, I mean it breaks him. Next scene, big old ropes tying him, he breaks it. All of a sudden, she braids his head seven times and there are seven things. And she weaves it inside and then she pins it to the loom. In other words, and he jumps up and picks the loom up and picks everything up and he is beating everybody and the loom is flying all over the room. I mean what a mess, but here is the story for me. It is like hey, I can break it. I can break it, but each time it gets a little bit harder. The first time it was fresh guts. You can break that, and it is kind of still raw, you can break it. The second time, rope, a little bit harder, but you can break it. Third time, they are pinning you down to a loom. And now you are standing up and your hair is pulled back and you are holding on to this loom and you are fighting. I mean, what does it tell you? You are kind of messed up. You are kind of out of God's will. You ought to go back to Israel. Not me, because no one tells me what to do, because I am in charge. What a ding-a-ling. See how dumb we get? I mean this is unbelievable. Hi Honey, I want to destroy your life, tell me what I can do. How I can do it? It's like a woman or a guy saying, hey, let's go out and commit adultery. What do you think? Okay. Okay. Hey, let's smoke this joint. It's only one. You can still minister. Okay. Okay. Saturday night, smoking a joint with your bible. Oh wow, I can really see God better. Did you hear about Pastor Steve? He's smoking a joint. No. What happened? Now he is in the joint. Well, you know, he always looked like Samson, he was bald, but you know.

But, you know, it's just – and all of sudden you come in and you cry and you counsel. Women, say, I just can't help it. I don't love my husband, but I love my next-door neighbor. His arms are so good, and he is so sweet, and he so cute, and he is so together. And here is your husband just 6'2" and just 180 pounds, and your neighbor is

475 pounds and ugly, and you think he is cute, because he talks to you. But your husband won't talk to you. And he will fix your lawnmower, and your husband won't even mow the yard. And he will come over, and bring you a cup of coffee, but your husband won't even do anything for you. All of a sudden you think, I wish I had that guy.

It happens here in ministry. Oh, I wish I could marry some of the pastors here. Do you who they are? No. But they speak with authority, and they have the word of God. They are powerful so I want them. Hey, it's just we are sinners, but put us behind the pulpit or put us in the position, women and men are drawn towards power. It has nothing to do with us. You can take an ugly person put him in a police uniform, and he is a good-looking guy, every single time. I've been out with the policeman. The men, women go after them. Why? Because it is the power. It's authority. The moment you get behind the pulpit, it's power, and it's authority. I want to be. Why can't you be like Pastor Steve? You ought to maybe talk to my wife, or talk to my staff. Maybe you got a great husband, and you ought to just leave him alone. You might die or something with me.

All of a sudden he is up, but it has gotten worse, it's gotten harder, it's breaking it, it's a little tougher. What is this burden on my back? But here we are, I can do it, going through South Bay with a loom on our backs. You know? Why are you jerking around? I got this burden on my back, but I am set free in Jesus' name. Anyway, and he fastened it them with pins and she was determined. **And she said unto him, How canst thou say, I love thee, when thine heart *is* not with me? Thou hast mocked me these three times, and hast not told me wherein thy great strength lieth.** (Judges 16:15.) You are playing with me Samson, you are mocking me, and we do the very same thing.

We do the very same thing. When people say, how are you doing? I'm okay. You're not. Your wife or your daughter, or someone says, you doing okay? I'm doing great. You're not. You see we somehow get away from the truth. We just kind of just get in trouble, and we do it. Instead of just saying to a person at work, Listen, I am a born-again spirit-filled Christian. They are never going to ask you to another party. Oh no, we don't, because she might ask me to go, so I am cool. I am at the water fountain drinking water. I'm cool. I'm flashing my head, have no hair, I think I am kind of thin, I am overweight. I'm married. I have no business being there, but I might be asked to go out to a party. If you tell them that you are a born-again, spirit-filled, married and loves Jesus Christ, no more problems. I think if you did that, you would never have a drug problem. No one would ever hit on you. That's why we won't do it. We want people to hit on us. We don't care who hits on us on long as someone hits on us because we are so lonely. So if I say that, I'm going to get all these Christian guys. And all these Christian guys are ugly. I mean every Christian guy is ugly. It's these worldly guys that are really... Listen to who you sound like.

Samson went after the Philistine women because they were babes and all the Israel women were... they got standards and they got things up to here and, you know, the skirt is all the way down. And I am not saying you can't look nice, look sharp, but these Philistine women, they really exposed what they had. Samson was looking. We look, and we need an outlet. You get tempted, you tell Jesus Christ, but we don't. We toy with it.

Then notice in verse 16: **And it came to pass, when she pressed him daily with her words.** (Judges 16:16.) With her words, every day a dripping faucet and bible says the woman can be like a nagging thing, and I am not talking about women tonight. I'm just saying what the scripture says. It says it is better for a man to sleep on top of the house then what? With a nagging wife. So, women have the unique ability - I'm talking about Delilah, don't look at me that way. Women, have the unique

ability of just nagging, or talking, or saying the same thing ten thousand different times to make a point. You know my wife came in Sunday morning; she is not here. So I want to talk. I don't know. Is she here? Is my wife here? Okay. She is not here. I hope she is not listening. And she came in and the goodness of my heart I invited her, I wanted to hang out with her, give her a cup of coffee and getting ready for second service. How are you doing? Great, honey, would you like a cup of coffee? I would love to have a cup of coffee. Hey, when are you going to get home? After third service. You know, can we do this? Uh-huh. Can we do that? Uh-huh. Can we move this around? Uh-huh. And she is just real excited, and all of a sudden I said, honey, you need to go home. I need to teach. But boy she is excited, she is telling me and, all of a sudden, she is lost and she forgets where I am. I got to do a third service, I love her for that, but I am just saying, that honey, time out, I got to go teach and sometimes we just get excited. **And it came to pass, when she pressed him daily with her words, and urged him, so that his soul was vexed unto death. That he told her all his heart,** (she wore him down, she beat him up) **and said unto her, There hath not come a razor upon mine head; for I have been a Nazarite unto God from my mother's womb: if I be shaven then my strength will go from me, and I shall become weak, and be like any other man.** (Judges 16:16-17.) In other words, he told her his heart's desire. And Samson believed, I think personally, my own personal conviction, I am convinced that Samson believed that if he cut his hair he still could get out of it. He was convinced. I think that is how we think. I got out of this, I got out of the woman from Timnath, I got away from the lion, I got away from the harlot, I got away from killing all these guys, I got away from ripping off the foreskins of thirty different guys, I got away with catching 300 foxes and setting those on fire. Hey, go ahead and cut my hair, nothing is going to happen. Isn't that the truth? Hey, God is not going to deal with me, and so he told her. And sometimes we take it just one step too far.

And so we read very simply that he thought that he was definitely above the law. He thought he could overcome it, and, all of a sudden, Samson was mocked. And God was about to teach Samson an important lesson; a difficult lesson, that payday was about ready to come. And God was going to settle the account, and she broke him in a very interesting way. And here, all of a sudden, he has touched everything. He has touched the grapes. He has touched the dead things. He has touched the things that God said not to touch, and now he finally touches the very last thing, the hair. **And when Delilah saw** (that is just so powerful. When she knew and I think, I don't know women, but I say this, I know when women know they have a guy and I know when guys think they have a woman. And there is that moment; there is a weakness. There is a time that you know you can move in and take them. It's a dangerous time and she knew she had him) **"And when Delilah saw that he had told her all his heart, she sent and called for the lords of the Philistines,** (so they were no longer hanging out. They were tired of Samson.) **saying, Come up this once, for he hath shewed me all his heart. Then the lords of the Philistines** (Now who cut Samson's hair? Everyone thinks Delilah, but that is not true) **Then the lords of the Philistines came up unto her, and brought money in their hand. And she made him to sleep upon her knees;** (night, night, Samson. Good night, honey. I really love you. Oh baby, I love you too. Samson, you are the joy of my heart. Oh, Delilah. You have met all my desires. I just – you are. Drink this milk and go night, night. And so he goes to sleep.) **and she called for a man, and she caused him to shave off the seven locks of his head; and she began to afflict him, and his strength went from him.** (Judges 16:18-19.) And she did not cut. Another man cut, and so she made him go to sleep. She called for more help. His hair is now being shaven. He's now beginning to be afflicted, and then it says in verse 20, And **she said, The Philistines be upon thee, Samson. And he awoke out of his sleep, and said, I will go out as at other times before, and shake myself. And he wist not that the Lord was departed from him.** (Judges 16:20.) They took him. They tied him. They stabbed his eyes out. They paraded him away. They tied his hands to

a mill grind. He was forced to walk around. He was mocked. He was shamed. He was blinded. She destroyed him. She beat him. He brought it on himself, but she was an instrument in Satan's hands. She was sent.

And when, all of a sudden, you find that you have been blinded, and you are blinded, and you are grinding, you have to understand that Satan has sent something into your life to distract you, to take you away from the presence of God. And I am here to tell you that sometimes we know it, and we still won't get away from it. And that is the power of sin. And I believe the only hope that you have, and I have is it to cry out with all your heart, God, have mercy upon me. Send Your Holy Spirit and deliver me. Because in our minds, I can break it, and in my mind I can break this rope, and in my mind I can walk through South Bay with a loom on the back of my head, and in my mind they can shave my head, and nothing is going to happen. But there comes a time that God says, you mocked Me. Whatsoever a man soweth, he is going to reap. And God says today in your life, Samson, is the end. You gambled, and you are going to pay the price. I gave you a ministry, gave you a life, and gave you everything you could ever want. Gave you power, more power than any other man has ever had. You have authority, but you know, Samson, every time I looked up you were hanging out with women. And it wasn't one time; it was three different times, Samson, and Samson, every time I wanted you to do something for Israel you were over there in the world in the Philistine town, and you were lusting, greedy, and wanting and showing off and chasing foxes and pulling up gates and mocking people and laughing because of the strength that I gave you. You crossed over. Now you are a cast away, you are finished.

I still love you, Samson. I will always love you, but you were never the instrument I wanted. I used you in spite of who you were. I saved you from that lion. I saved you in that vineyard. I saved you from the Philistines. I saved you from that woman in Timnath. I saved you from that harlot, but you have to learn a lesson. It is going to be

costly. There is going to be consequences for this, I am going to forgive you, and praise God, and God is going to use him next week. God is going to give him one more chance, and he is going to pass the test. And even though God gave him victory, and God gave him great, great, great success, remember this, he never saw it. There are consequences to sin that mar our lives. And so as I look at this story, I think, oh God, what does it speak to me? And he jumped up, and he knew not that the Lord had departed, for he thought he would break it as he did before. Never, ever, ever think that you can get out of something. First of all, don't get into it. Secondly, you can't get out of it, and thirdly we have to look toward Jesus Christ. Amen

Closing Prayer:

Father, we thank You for Samson. I have kind of fallen in love with this guy. It would be a fun thing to do a book on Samson. Lord, to talk about distractions, to talk about the love of other things, other lovers in our lives. And God, we all have had Delilahs within our lives. We have had her that has taken us away or him who has taken us away from the calling of God, or has distracted us. Lord, we find that sometimes it could be ministry, or power, or position and we are blinded. I mean everybody can see it but us. And I pray, once again, that You would be gracious, and You would show us, and You would give us a chance to repent, and that, God, if we can't have enough wisdom to get out of the world, then Lord, speak to our hearts. And if we can't have enough wisdom to get away from an ungodly relationship, then, God, speak to us. And if we are boasting and showing off our strength, God speak to us. Somehow, Lord, would You deliver us? In Jesus' name, Amen.