



May 2010

Dear Friend of Light of the Word,

“And it came to pass, when she pestered him daily with her words and pressed him, so that his soul was vexed to death, that he told her all his heart . . .” (Judges 16:16-17).

Have you ever had trouble with a leaky faucet? Maybe you were in bed at night, trying to get some sleep, but in the background is the drip, drip, drip of the faucet! It drives you nuts, doesn't it? Sometimes people can be like that. Their words to you are like a dripping faucet, constantly nagging and pestering you until you give in or give up to their whims.

Samson was a strong man who had a great weakness—women.

God had forbidden the Israelites from mixing with the Philistines, but Samson rebelled and ignored God's instruction and his parents' instruction by dating a Philistine woman. He then had a relationship with a prostitute. Finally, his ultimate downfall was a relationship with Delilah.

Delilah seduced Samson. Because he had spent most of his life rebelling against God's instruction, he fell for it. Samson participated in the seduction. He flirted, he played with fire, and he eventually opened up his heart to Delilah—which caused his destruction.

When people commit adultery or fornication it never starts as a sexual thing. It always starts with a friendship. When the friendship grows, the people start sharing their hearts; when that happens, the physical thing is just around the corner. So, the key is that if you are opening your heart in a dating relationship or in a friendship, you need to be very careful. God needs to know your heart; your spouse needs to know your heart; but no one else really needs to know your heart.

Judges 16:17 says that Samson told her all his heart, and said to her, *“No razor has ever come upon my head, for I have been a Nazirite to God from my mother's womb. If I am shaven, then my strength will leave me, and I shall become weak, and be like any other man.”*

Samson finally blew it. He had been flirting with all the promises of God. He had been hanging out in the vineyard. He had been touching the things that have been dead. Every commitment he made to God, he had broken, except for one—not cutting his hair. His strength was not in his hair; it was in his commitment and vow to God. But he broke his commitment. When he shared his heart, Samson broke his vow to God as well. At that point, Delilah knew she had him—she knew she had defeated him.

Judges 16:18-20 says, *“When Delilah saw that he had told her all his heart, she sent and called for the lords of the Philistines, saying, ‘Come up once more, for he has told me all his heart.’ So the lords of the Philistines came up to her and brought the money in their hand. Then she lulled him to sleep on her knees, and called for a man and had him shave off the seven locks of his head. Then she began to torment him, and his strength left him. And she said, ‘The Philistines are upon you, Samson!’ So he awoke from his sleep, and said, ‘I will go out as before, at other times, and shake myself free!’ But he did not know that the Lord had departed from him.”*

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What a tragic story. Samson was not even aware that God was not with him. Instead, he believed in his own strength. *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.* Samson believed in what he was doing, but never saw the grace of God. Samson had been blinded by his sin.

And that is what sin does—it begins to blind you. It makes you think you are above everyone else (that you are above the law). It leads you to a point where you are not making good decisions. It leads you down a path where you find yourself living with the enemy—on the wrong side of what is good and just. Sin removes your fear of God.

The major problem of Samson’s life is also the problem we often face. We think, “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 what to do; I want that woman and I am going to get her. I am smarter than my boss; I know a better way to do it than what he wants me to do. I am smarter than the enemy, because I can beat him every single time.”

Isn’t it amazing that we feel we know better than God what is best for our lives? Isn’t it amazing that we challenge every person of authority that God puts in our path? Isn’t it incredible that we actually think we can defeat the enemy without God’s help?

I want to challenge you right now that Satan is seeking to send things into your life that will distract you from God. Maybe you think you can break him, but the problem is the enemy is wiser than you are. And because you are on the wrong side of the fence, or you are flirting or rebelling, you are going to get trapped.

Do you have a Delilah in your life? By the way, Delilah doesn’t need to be a woman. Your Delilah can be money, a job, entertainment, a relationship, a desire—anything that seduces you away from your commitment to God.

Listen, God is gracious. He is long-suffering towards us, but when we persist to rebel against the Lord and continue to play with sin, there will come a time when we get burned. Payday does come. Eventually, we do reap what we sow. God is not mocked. Samson thought he was in charge, and he consistently ignored God’s commands until the Philistines were finally able to take him out. But even in Samson’s last moments as he cried out to God, the Lord heard him.

Samson’s life was tragic because he did more for God in the last few minutes of his life than he did throughout his entire lifetime. Samson wasted his life because he crossed the line one too many times. Friend, learn a lesson from Samson. Stop rebelling against the Lord. Stop thinking you know what’s best for your life. Stop playing with fire. It’s time to be serious about your commitment to God.

In Christ,


Pastor Steve

P.S. This month’s featured resource is a new book that I have written about the lessons we can learn from Samson’s life entitled *Crossing the Line - The Compromised Life*. I believe the Lord truly wanted me to write this book for this age that we are presently living in. I encourage you to get the book and read it and apply it to your own life.