

Looking for Love in All the Wrong Places

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Judges 16:1-22

Judges 15:20

20 *And he [Samson] judged Israel twenty years in the days of the Philistines.*

Judges 16:1-3

1 *Now Samson went to Gaza and saw a harlot there, and went in to her.*

2 *When the Gazites were told, Samson has come here! they surrounded the place and lay in wait for him all night at the gate of the city. They were quiet all night, saying, In the morning, when it is daylight, we will kill him.*

3 *And Samson lay low till midnight; then he arose at midnight, took hold of the doors of the gate of the city and the two gateposts, pulled them up, bar and all, put them on his shoulders, and carried them to the top of the hill that faces Hebron.*

Four Dangers:

DANGER #1: Samson got involved _____ in another _____ relationship.

Judges 16:4

4 *Afterward it happened that he loved a woman in the Valley of Sorek, whose name was Delilah.*

DANGER #2: As the relationship develops, Samson _____ to toy with _____.

Judges 16:5-7

5 *And the lords of the Philistines came up to her and said to her, Entice him, and find out where his great strength lies, and by what means we may overpower him, that we may bind him to afflict him; and every one of us will give you eleven hundred pieces of silver.*

6 *So Delilah said to Samson, Please tell me where your great strength lies, and with what you may be bound to afflict you.*

7 *And Samson said to her, If they bind me with seven fresh bowstrings, not yet dried, then I shall become weak, and be like any other man.*

Judges 16:10

10 *Then Delilah said to Samson, Look, you have mocked me and told me lies. Now, please tell me what you may be bound with.*

Judges 16:13

13 *Delilah said to Samson, Until now you have mocked me and told me lies. Tell me what you may be bound with ...*

Judges 16:13

13 *... And he said to her, If you weave the seven locks of my head into the web of the loom.*

Judges 16:15-16

15 *Then she said to him, 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.*

16 *And it came to pass, when she pestered him daily with her words and pressed him, so that his soul was vexed to death.*

DANGER #3: Samson _____ his secret in order to _____
_____.

Judges 16:17

17 *that he told her all his heart, and said to her, No razor has ever come upon my head, for I have been a Nazarite to God from my mothers womb. If I am shaven, then my strength will leave me, and I shall become weak, and be like any other man.*

Judges 16:19

19 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.

Judges 16:20

20 ... And he wist not that the LORD was departed from him. (KJV)

DANGER #4: Samson didn't _____ what had happened until it was _____.

Judges 16:21

21 Then the Philistines took him and put out his eyes, and brought him down to Gaza. They bound him with bronze fetters, and he became a grinder in the prison.

Four Things That Happened To Samson

First, there is _____. They _____ out his eyes.

Second, there is _____. They _____ him down to Gaza.

Third, there is _____. They _____ him with bronze shackles.

Finally, there is _____. They set him to _____ in the prison.

Judges 16:22

22 *However, the hair of his head began to grow again after it had been shaven.*

Three Applications From This Story

APPLICATION #1: Unless we _____ with our problems, they will come back to _____ us again and again and again.

APPLICATION #2: Unless we learn the difference between being _____ by the Spirit, and _____ by the Spirit, we will _____ just like Samson did.

APPLICATION #3: Unless we _____ our physical desires completely to God, we risk _____ prey to the enticements of this world.