

SAMSON: Man of Strength, Man of Weakness

Lesson Four • Judges 16:1-22

Samson's Bad Hair Day

Toying with Temptation:

Samson chose to toy with TEMPTATION, and his life became an illustration of two of the Bible's great warnings:

Pride goes before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall. Proverbs 16:18

Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall. 1Corinthians 10:12

The Hardest Thing You Will Ever Say:

"I have a PROBLEM!"

When You Toy with Temptation . . .

1. Sin Will TAKE You Farther Than You Wanted To Go!

Judges 16:1-3 (Samson and the Prostitute)

Samson and the Prostitute:

- Samson sees and visits a PROSTITUTE in Gaza. vs. 1

- The Philistines plot to KILL Samson in the morning. vs. 2

- Samson ESCAPES by picking up the city gates and carrying them off. vs. 3

2. Sin Will KEEP You Longer Than You Wanted To Stay!

Judges 16:4-17 (Samson and Delilah)

The Philistine's Proposal:

The five lords of the Philistines offered Delilah a huge bounty if she discovered the SECRET of Samson's strength. vs. 5

Delilah's Beauty Salon & Samson's Bad Hair Day:

Delilah "nagged Samson to death" with her WORDS so that he "told her all his heart." vs. 16-17

3. Sin Will COST You More Than You Wanted To Pay!

Judges 16:18-23 (Samson and Self-Destruction)

The Saddest Statements about Samson:

"And his strength LEFT him." vs. 19

"But he did not KNOW that the Lord had departed from him." vs. 20

The High Cost of Samson's Sin:

"Then the Philistines took him and put out his eyes (mutilation), and brought him down to Gaza (deportation). They bound him with bronze fetters (incarceration), and he became a grinder in the prison (humiliation)." vs. 21

The Healing Grace of God:

"However, the hair of his head began to GROW again after it had been shaven." vs. 22

Life Lessons from a Flawed Hero:

- ❖ Unless we deal with our PROBLEMS they will come back to haunt us again and again.

- ❖ We can FALL like Samson if do not learn that we cannot toy with temptation.

- ❖ Even in our failure we can still experience God's healing GRACE.