



## Sermon Notes

Journey Through Judges #17  
**Samson's Last Battle**  
*Judges 16:1-31*

November 11, 2007

Tim Strickland

**Judges 16:18-30**<sup>18</sup>When Delilah saw that he had told her all his heart, she sent and called the lords of the Philistines, saying, "Come up again, for he has told me all his heart." Then the lords of the Philistines came up to her and brought the money in their hands. <sup>19</sup>She made him sleep on her knees. And she called a man and had him shave off the seven locks of his head. Then she began to torment him, and his strength left him. <sup>20</sup>And she said, "The Philistines are upon you, Samson!" And he awoke from his sleep and said, "I will go out as at other times and shake myself free." But he did not know that the LORD had left him. <sup>21</sup>And the Philistines seized him and gouged out his eyes and brought him down to Gaza and bound him with bronze shackles. And he ground at the mill in the prison. <sup>22</sup>But the hair of his head began to grow again after it had been shaved.

### The Death of Samson

<sup>23</sup>Now the lords of the Philistines gathered to offer a great sacrifice to Dagon their god and to rejoice, and they said, "Our god has given Samson our enemy into our hand." <sup>24</sup>And when the people saw him, they praised their god. For they said, "Our god has given our enemy into our hand, the ravager of our country, who has killed many of us." <sup>25</sup>And when their hearts were merry, they said, "Call Samson, that he may entertain us." So they called Samson out of the prison, and he entertained them. They made him stand between the pillars. <sup>26</sup>And Samson said to the young man who held him by the hand, "Let me feel the pillars on which the house rests, that I may lean against them." <sup>27</sup>Now the house was full of men and women. All the lords of the Philistines were there, and on the roof there were about 3,000 men and women, who looked on while Samson entertained.

<sup>28</sup>Then Samson called to the LORD and said, "O Lord God, please remember me and please strengthen me only this once, O God, that I may be avenged on the Philistines for my two eyes." <sup>29</sup>And Samson grasped the two middle pillars on which the house rested, and he leaned his weight against them, his right hand on the one and his left hand on the other. <sup>30</sup>And Samson said, "Let me die with the Philistines." Then he bowed with all his strength, and the house fell upon the lords and upon all the people who were in it. So the dead whom he killed at his death were more than those whom he had killed during his life.

### Introduction

The famous story of Samson & Delilah

Sermon Notes  
November 11, 2007  
Page 2

Journey Through Judges #17  
**Samson's Last Battle**  
*Judges 16:1-31*

### 1. The Gates of Gaza (1-3)

- a. Samson sees and goes in to a prostitute in Gaza (1)
  - See Proverbs 5:1-23
- b. The Philistines plot to kill him in the morning (2)
- c. He picks up the city gates and carries them to a hill near Hebron (3)
  - Hebron is 40 miles away, over 2000 feet uphill from Gaza

### 2. Samson & Delilah (4-20)

Prelude (4-5)

- Samson loves Delilah
- The lords of the Philistines offer her a lot of money (1100 pieces of silver each!!) to find the secret of his strength

Plan A: Seven Fresh Bowstrings (6-9)

- Delilah: *The Philistines are upon you, Samson!*
- *But he snapped the bowstrings...*

Plan B: New Ropes (10-12)

- *The Philistines are upon you, Samson!*
- *But he snapped the ropes...*

Plan C: A New Hairstyle (13-14)

- *The Philistines are upon you, Samson!*
- *But...he pulled away the pin, the loom, and the web*

Emotional Arm Twisting Gets Results! (15-17)

- *How can you say 'I love you,' when your heart is not with me?*
- *...she pressed him hard...day after day...urged him...his soul was vexed to death*
  - the same method used in Judges 14:16-17
- *And he told her all his heart*
  - I'm a Nazirite - the secret to my strength is my hair

Plan D: A New Haircut (18-20)

- *The Philistines are upon you, Samson!*
- *But he did not know that the Lord had left him.*
  - Psalm 51:11, 1 Samuel 16:14-16, 18:12, 28:15-16
  - Ex. 33:13-16, Matthew 1:23, Rom. 8:9, John 15:5

### 3. Samson's Final Victory (21-31)

- a. Samson is captured by the Philistines and humiliated (21)
  - Eyes gouged out, bound, made to grind the mill in prison
- b. *But the hair of his head began to grow again after it had been shaved.* (22)
  - Amazing Grace: The Lord wasn't finished with Samson.
  - Sovereign God: The Lord still had a purpose to fulfill. (14:4)
  - I believe this is a pivotal verse in understanding the story of Samson, and even the whole book of Judges
    - God doesn't forget the prodigal son.
    - God will fulfill His purposes.
- c. A party for Dagon, the Philistine god (23-27)
  - The Philistines praise their false god for Samson's capture
    - See 1 Samuel 5:2-7
  - They bring out Samson for 'entertainment'
  - Samson: *"Let me feel the pillars on which the house rests, that I may lean against them."*
- d. Samson's Final Prayer (28)
  - *O Lord GOD, please remember me and please strengthen me only this once, O God, that I may be avenged on the Philistines for my two eyes.*
    - A God who remembers His people
      - Ps. 74:18, 89:50
    - A final picture of the faith for which Samson is remembered in Hebrews 11:32ff
    - See also Jeremiah 15:15-21
- e. Samson Brings Down the House (29-30)
  - *Let me die with the Philistines.*
  - *So the dead whom he killed at his death were more than those whom he had killed during his life*
    - Foreshadows the ultimate victory of Jesus through His death on the cross - John 12:23-24
- f. Samson is buried in his family tomb, with honour (31)

### Our Response

1. Rejoice in the presence of the Lord in your life! Don't ever take the incredible blessing of His presence for granted.

**Philippians 4:4** Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice.

**Matthew 28:20b** And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.

**John 15:5b** for apart from me you can do nothing.

2. Even when you fail and suffer the consequences of sin, the Lord is still willing to pick you up again. Call upon the Lord in your time of need! He is a God of great mercy and grace.

**Psalms 25:6-7** <sup>6</sup> Remember your mercy, O LORD, and your steadfast love, for they have been from of old.

<sup>7</sup> Remember not the sins of my youth or my transgressions; according to your steadfast love remember me, for the sake of your goodness, O LORD!

### Questions for Application

1. Samson's major weakness was for the opposite sex. Discuss the dangers that we too face when our eyes and hearts wander to where they should not be.
2. Have you ever been emotionally manipulated into doing something unwise?
3. Read Exodus 33:13-16, Matthew 1:23 & Romans 8:9. Discuss these verses in relation to v20 *But he did not know that the Lord had left him.*
4. What is the significance of v22: *But the hair of his head began to grow again after it had been shaved.* What does it say about God's grace and sovereignty?
5. How do you see God sovereignly working in this passage (see Judges 14:4)? How does this give you faith for the challenges you face?
6. Pray together and thank the Lord for His amazing grace in your life and for His sovereign control over all His creation. Ask Him for strength to believe He is sovereign over all things, even when life is hard.

Questions, Comments? - [inthebeginning@look.ca](mailto:inthebeginning@look.ca)

If you have questions or comments about today's message, please drop me an email to the address above. Thanks,

Tim

