

Life Lessons from Delilah

Various Scriptures

She tormented him with her nagging day after day until he was sick to death of it.

Finally, Samson shared his secret with her. -Judges 16:16-17

As we continue our Bible study series it is imperative that we understand the significance of learning from all examples and walks of life outlined in God's Holy Word. Although this life lesson example is negative, we still however can learn valuable insight from Delilah's perspective, persistence and pretense. In considering her story, the questions to ask ourselves is, what kind of impact are you having in the lives of those around you and what is your motive?

Did you know?

*Delilah personal name means "with long hair hanging down."

*Delilah lived on the border between the _____ and _____ territories.

*Delilah's story is mentioned in Judges _____

Context revisited:

The book of Judges highlights a very dark time in Israel's history when the people disobeyed God. As a result a continuous cycle of Israel's _____, God's _____ and _____ were constantly on display. It all stemmed from a lack of obedience and love for God. Judges 13:1; 17:6; 18:1; 19:1; 21:25

At this particular junction in this narrative (Judges 13-16), the Israelites again did evil in God's sight and were now handed over to the Philistines who oppressed them for _____ years. It was during this time that Samson was born and dedicated to the Lord. He would grow up with them and rescue his people from the hands of the Philistines.

Samson was blessed by God in so many ways:

✧ Nazirite he knew and _____ the Lord. Numbers 6:1-8; Judges 13:4-5; 24-25

✧ Possessed great _____. Judges 14:6

✧ Courageous servant. Judges 15:11-13

✧ A mighty _____. Judges 14:19; 15:4-5; 15:14-16; 16:3

✧ Witnessed a miracle from God. Judges 15:19

As we reflect on the many ways God blessed Samson for being dedicated and set apart for His glory, what are two areas in your life that God has blessed you?

Do you believe we can take God's blessings for granted and stumble in our witness ? Why or why not?

Delilah's Perspective: Judges 16:4-6

At the height of his time judging the Israelites Samson became a problem in the eyes of the Philistines. With that said, it was a turning point because he was also beginning to let down his guard and lose sight of his commitment to the Lord.

How could this happen? Samson falls in _____ with Delilah.

Remember she lives in the valley of Sorek, which is right on the boarder of the two territories. It's likely she too is a Philistine. One thing leads to another they're the new couple, talk of the town and the word gets out. The Philistine rulers want to end Samson's attacks so they approach Delilah with an offer she can't refuse. Five Philistine leaders from each city in the region go out of their way to meet with Delilah, ask her to find out what makes him _____ and how they can _____ him. To make the deal irresistible they tell her we'll give you 1,100 pieces of silver each for a total of 5,500!

For Delilah it boiled down to Samson or Silver... As the story goes Delilah takes the silver and gets right to work on Samson.

Remember our initial question? What kind of impact are you having in the lives of those around you and what is your motive?

Yes, Samson put himself in this predicament, but as we consider Delilah's decision, what are some ways we can prevent putting profits over people or being in a relationship for personal gain only?

Delilah's Persistence: Judges 16:7-17

"Persistence can grind an iron beam down into a needle." -Chinese Proverbs
In this portion of the story we see time after time Delilah asking Samson, "how can you be tied up securely."

Each time Samson gave an answer, but when the Philistines came he would easily break free and escape.

New Bowstrings that had not been dried
New ropes that had never been used
Weave 7 braids of his hair into the fabric of their loom and tighten it with a shuttle

Then the Bible says, Delilah _____ and used his own words of love for her against him. Notice the persistence of verse 16; this same thing happened in Judges 14:16-17

NKJV She pestered him daily with her words and pressed him so that his soul was vexed to death.

NLT She tormented him with her nagging day after day until he was sick to death of it

No doubt this was a weakness for Samson. For he folded when his wife was persistent and he folded here with Delilah.

As we consider Delilah's persistence and Samson's difficulty, can you identify some things that are constantly nagging, pulling and tempting you to give in to sin?

What can you do to strengthen your mind and stand firm under pressure?

Delilah's Pretense: Judges 16:18-21

Pretense: an attempt to make something that is not the case appear true.

In light of the text, Delilah attempted to make it look like she was _____ about Samson but all she really cared about was the silver.

What did she do?

*She made it appear like she loved him. Verse 15

*She lulled Samson to sleep. Verse 19

*She cried out, "Samson! The Philistines have come to capture you!" (4X)

Sadly Samson was unable to do what he had done in the past because his strength had left him. He was now bound with a bronze chain, forced to grind grain in prison. So it is with you and I when we give into our own desires/Satan's influences. We become in slaves to sin. Satan does not care about us; truth be told, we don't even care about ourselves like God does!

Supporting scriptures: 2 Corinthians 11:14; Jeremiah 17:9; John 8:34

Even in the midst of our sin and shortcomings we still see a glimpse of God's grace in this story. (Verses 22-31)

What are some things that look and feel good to us but are actually unhealthy for our spiritual development?

As you reflect on this study, what is the the greatest lesson learned that you are willing to share with someone else?

"God blesses us with new grace and mercy everyday"