

II. DELILAH

A. Almost Certainly A Philistine

B. Would Have Worshipped False Gods

C. Had Little To No Conscience

III. THE PHILISTINE RULERS

“Some time later Samson fell in love with a woman named Delilah.... The rulers of the Philistines went to her and said, ‘Entice Samson to tell you what makes him so strong and how he can be overpowered and tied up securely. Then each of us will give you 1,100 pieces of silver.’”
Judges 16:4-5 (NLT)

“So Delilah said to Samson, ‘Please tell me what makes you so strong and what it would take to tie you up securely.’ Samson replied, ‘If I were tied up with seven new bowstrings that have not yet been dried, I would become as weak as anyone else.’ So the Philistine rulers brought Delilah seven new bowstrings, and she tied Samson up with them. She had hidden some men in one of the inner rooms of her house, and she cried out, ‘Samson! The Philistines have come to capture you!’ But Samson snapped the bowstrings as a piece of string snaps when it is burned by a fire. So the secret of his strength was not discovered.”
Judges 16:6-9 (NLT)

“Afterward Delilah said to him, ‘You’ve been making fun of me and telling me lies! Now please tell me how you can be tied up securely.’ Samson replied, ‘If I were tied up with brand-new ropes that had never been used, I would become as weak as anyone else.’ So Delilah took new ropes and tied him up with them. The men were hiding in the inner room as before, and again Delilah cried out, ‘Samson! The Philistines have come to capture you!’ But again Samson snapped the ropes from his arms as if they were thread.”
Judges 16:10-12 (NLT)

“So while he slept, Delilah wove the seven braids of his hair into the fabric. Then she tightened it with the loom shuttle. Again she cried out, ‘Samson! The Philistines have come to capture you!’ But Samson woke up, pulled back the loom shuttle, and yanked his hair away from the loom and the fabric.”
Judges 16:13-14 (NLT)

“Then Delilah pouted, ‘How can you tell me, I love you, when you don’t share your secrets with me? You’ve made fun of me three times now, and you still haven’t told me what makes you so strong!’ She tormented him with her nagging day after day until he was sick to death of it.”
Judges 16:15-16 (NLT)

“Finally, Samson shared his secret with her. ‘My hair has never been cut,’ he confessed, ‘for I was dedicated to God as a Nazirite from birth. If my head were shaved, my strength would leave me, and I would become as weak as anyone else.’”
Judges 16:17 (NLT)

“Delilah realized he had finally told her the truth, so she sent for the Philistine rulers. ‘Come back one more time,’ she said, ‘for he has finally told me his secret.’ So the Philistine rulers returned with the money in their hands. Delilah lulled Samson to sleep with his head in her lap, and then she called in a man to shave off the seven locks of his hair. In this way she began to bring him down, and his strength left him. Then she cried out, ‘Samson! The Philistines have come to capture you!’ When he woke up, he thought, ‘I will do as before and shake myself free.’ But he didn’t realize the LORD had left him. So the Philistines captured him and gouged out his eyes. They took him to Gaza, where he was bound with bronze chains and forced to grind grain in the prison.”
Judges 16:18-21 (NLT)

IV. THE LESSONS

A. Be Careful About Who We Give Our Heart To

B. Be Discerning When Being Pressured

C. View Our Strengths In Light Of God’s Strengths

“... he didn’t realize the LORD had left him.”
Judges 16:20 (NLT)

D. A Life Given Over To Self-Interest Destroys Itself

“The Philistine rulers held a great festival, offering sacrifices and praising their god, Dagon. They said, ‘Our god has given us victory over our enemy Samson!’ When the people saw him, they praised their god, saying, ‘Our god has delivered our enemy to us! The one who killed so many of us is now in our power!’ Half drunk by now, the people demanded, ‘Bring out Samson so he can amuse us!’ So he was

brought from the prison to amuse them, and they had him stand between the pillars supporting the roof. Samson said to the young servant who was leading him by the hand, ‘Place my hands against the pillars that hold up the temple. I want to rest against them.’ Now the temple was completely filled with people. All the Philistine rulers were there, and there were about 3,000 men and women on the roof who were watching as Samson amused them. Then Samson prayed to the Lord, ‘Sovereign Lord, remember me again. O God, please strengthen me just one more time. With one blow let me pay back the Philistines for the loss of my two eyes.’ Then Samson put his hands on the two center pillars that held up the temple. Pushing against them with both hands, he prayed, ‘Let me die with the Philistines.’ And the temple crashed down on the Philistine rulers and all the people. So he killed more people when he died than he had during his entire lifetime.”

Judges 16:23-30 (NLT)

DELILAH
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I. SAMSON

A. The Nazirite Vow

“In those days a man named Manoah from the tribe of Dan lived in the town of Zorah. His wife was unable to become pregnant, and they had no children. The angel of the LORD appeared to Manoah’s wife and said, ‘Even though you have been unable to have children, you will soon become pregnant and give birth to a son. So be careful; you must not drink wine or any other alcoholic drink nor eat any forbidden food. You will become pregnant and give birth to a son, and his hair must never be cut. For he will be dedicated to God as a Nazirite from birth. He will begin to rescue Israel from the Philistines....’ When her son was born, she named him Samson. And the LORD blessed him as he grew up. And the Spirit of the LORD began to stir him.”

Judges 13:2-5,24-25 (NLT)

B. The Coming Of God’s Spirit Upon Him

“At that moment the Spirit of the LORD came powerfully upon him, and he ripped the lion’s jaws apart with his bare hands.”

Judges 14:6 (NLT)

“Then the Spirit of the LORD came powerfully upon him. He went down to the town of Ashkelon, killed thirty men....”

Judges 14:19 (NLT)

“But the Spirit of the LORD came powerfully upon Samson, and he snapped the ropes on his arms as if they were burnt strands of flax, and they fell from his wrists. Then he found the jawbone of a recently killed donkey. He picked it up and killed 1,000 Philistines with it.”

Judges 15:14-15 (NLT)

C. The Breaking of Every Vow But One

