

## Judges 14

**And Samson went down to Timnath, and saw a woman in Timnath of the daughters of the Philistines.**

1. Timnath = portion. Had to go down in order to get there. Saw a woman belonging to or from the enemy.

**<sup>2</sup> And he came up, and told his father and his mother, and said, I have seen a woman in Timnath of the daughters of the Philistines: now therefore get her for me to wife. <sup>3</sup> Then his father and his mother said unto him, Is there never a woman among the daughters of thy brethren, or among all my people, that thou goest to take a wife of the uncircumcised Philistines? And Samson said unto his father, Get her for me; for she pleaseth me well.**

2. Samson had to come back up to tell his parents.
  - a. What attracted him....what he saw. What he saw, he wanted no matter where she was from or what she was like or believed in. Be careful with that.
  - b. What looks okay, might be a daughter of the enemy...can't go by just looks alone.
  - c. Desires her to be his wife.
3. Must have been a pattern with Samson...picking bad women or being unequally yoked due to his father asking "Is there never a woman" ....among his own people.
  - a. She pleased him...pleasing to the eye.

**<sup>4</sup> But his father and his mother knew not that it was of the LORD, that he sought an occasion against the Philistines: for at that time the Philistines had dominion over Israel.**

4. Parents were unaware that God was going to use this as an opportunity against the enemy. In fact, God is looking for opportunities to take your problem out.
  - a. Why? Because the enemy had dominion or was in control over His people so He looks for occasions to take the enemy out.

So while under normal circumstances, his parents were correct in their opposition to Samson's choice, which also was contrary to the word, in this instance, it appeared to be an exception or at least God was preparing to use it as a reason to spank the Philistines.

Nice to know that God is looking for a reason to jump in and deal with our captivity.

Note: If it serves a Kingdom purpose AND is led and powered by the Holy Spirit, it is a pretty good chance that the move may be acceptable. Are there things you normally would not do, or people would not approve of, but God might allow in certain instances as an opportunity to work against the enemy?

**<sup>5</sup> Then went Samson down, and his father and his mother, to Timnath, and came to the vineyards of Timnath: and, behold, a young lion roared against him. <sup>6</sup> And the Spirit of the LORD came mightily upon him, and he rent him as he would have rent a kid, and he had nothing in his hand: but he told not his father or his mother what he had done.**

5. Went down again near the vineyards and a young lion comes against him...roars at him.
  - a. Vineyard, probably not a good place for a person like him who is dedicated to God to hang out at. Be sober minded.
6. When the lion comes against him, that's when the Spirit of the Lord comes on him "mightily".
  - a. The result of having the Spirit come on you is 'easy' victory.
  - b. The problem/lion got ripped apart as if he would have rent a harmless farm animal. The awesome problem which was in front of him, he was able to handle with ease. The problem that should have taken him out, he instead took out the problem with no problem.
  - c. **Question?** How do you think Samson was able to pull this off? Any application for today?
    - i. Yes, it is applicable....he was powered by the Holy Spirit!
  - d. We probably need to know **how to get the Holy Spirit like that**. Follow the first three steps.
  - e. Didn't have anything in his hand. Empty handed. In the natural, you would have expected him to have something in his hand to kill his problem.
    - i. No college degree in the natural is a problem; but that's not a show stopper in the Spirit realm.
  - f. Situation looked hopeless, young lion, dangerous situation, and in the natural, ill-equipped to handle this problem, The Spirit of the Lord can give you the super-natural assistance that you need.
    - i. With the Spirit, you have what you need and all that you need to win.
    - ii. **With the Spirit, even though you may be facing tough odds, you really ought to be getting through some of this easier than expected.**
    - iii. Not by power or by might but by my Spirit says the Lord (Zech 4:6). You may need the Spirit in order to get through this problem.
  - g. He didn't tell his parents what happened. Why? I dunno...may have fussed about the route he took. May have worried them, dunno. They may not have understood....some folk won't need to know the details.

**<sup>7</sup> And he went down, and talked with the woman; and she pleased Samson well. <sup>8</sup> And after a time he returned to take her, and he turned aside to see the carcase of the lion: and, behold, there was a swarm of bees and honey in the carcase of the lion. <sup>9</sup> And he took thereof in his hands, and went on eating, and came to his father and mother, and he gave them, and they did eat: but he told not them that he had taken the honey out of the carcase of the lion.**

7. For this particular woman to please him, he had to bring himself to her level. Our kids need to be very careful who they are hooking up with.

8. Picture of Christ as a deliverer. Jewish Betrothal example and a picture of the rapture. Talks with her, makes an agreement, and then goes away and returns for the bride.

Turned to the side to go back and visit the place of his last victory. That's a good thing to do.

**Remember what God did for you and how He delivered you before.**

- a. When he gets there, the remains of the problem still there but now there's honey inside of it. **Something sweet is inside or comes out of what was a problem earlier.**
  - b. When you get through this it'll be sweet! Can anyone recall a time when you faced a problem and you had to trust in God alone, and the problem was taken care of and you had the victory. Was that a sweet moment? This is the same principle in this story.
  - c. Before he could get to the honey though....had to get past the swarm of bees. Not as big a problem as the lion, so he shouldn't have any problem with some bees.
  - d. After you tackle your big problem, don't be surprised if some little issues try to get in the way of your reward. Just work your way through it....there's honey in the middle of this situation.
9. Take the reward from your last trial and use it to strengthen and refresh you along the way.
- a. Notice what he did with the honey. He tasted it and went on eating it. Continued to reap and use the outcome of a great testimony to get him through.
  - b. Came to his parents and used the reward or outcome of his testimony to bless and encourage them. Someone close to him receives a blessing and benefit from his testimony.
  - c. When you get through this, it is designed so that you can deliver someone else. Revelation 12:11, go to them, they may not come to you. Share the results of your testimony with others who are on this journey.
  - d. Didn't tell them where the honey came from. When you share your testimony, people don't need to know the details. If his parents knew where the honey came from, they wouldn't have eaten it and the testimony would not have helped them.
    - i. **Because of where you've been some people won't receive your testimony because of where it came from....even if it's good and sweet.**

**<sup>10</sup> So his father went down unto the woman: and Samson made there a feast; for so used the young men to do. <sup>11</sup> And it came to pass, when they saw him, that they brought thirty companions to be with him. <sup>12</sup> And Samson said unto them, I will now put forth a riddle unto you: if ye can certainly declare it me within the seven days of the feast, and find it out, then I will give you thirty sheets and thirty change of garments: <sup>13</sup> But if ye cannot declare it me, then shall ye give me thirty sheets and thirty change of garments. And they said unto him, Put forth thy riddle, that we may hear it.**

10. Back in the day the father made arrangements.

11. 30 companions to be with him. They were the enemy's people. Where did you get your friends? Are they really friends?

12. Riddle challenge.

13. Enemy agrees to the riddle. They had 7 days to figure it out.

**<sup>14</sup> And he said unto them, Out of the eater came forth meat, and out of the strong came forth sweetness. And they could not in three days expound the riddle. <sup>15</sup> And it came to pass on the seventh day, that they said unto Samson's wife, Entice thy husband, that he may declare unto us the riddle, lest we burn thee and thy father's house with fire: have ye called us to take that we have? Is it not so?**

14. Riddle was his lion testimony. They couldn't figure it out. The enemy will have a hard time understanding your testimony. One of my sources states:

- a. The Philistines couldn't decipher the meaning of the riddle, because they hadn't seen the dead lion, from whose dead body came honey. They couldn't understand its meaning - that the secret of the Promised Land flowing with milk and *honey* was to see and believe in the dead Lion of Judah, "who was delivered up because of our transgressions, and was raised because of our justification" (Rom. 4:25). Jesus came and died at Passover, and out of Him comes the *honey of salvation*.
- b. A deliverer tells this riddle (like Christ),
  - i. Where – didn't stay in his place which was higher, went down to enemy occupied territory.
  - ii. Why – to find a bride. You. Why can't you find someone more suitable; nope, she is the right one, someone from the uncircumcised.
  - iii. On the way – a lion attacks the deliverer, the enemy.
  - iv. In the lion's defeat, there is honey to be found. No sting of death...honey.
  - v. Death is the eater of us all, nothing stronger. Jesus' death came at the hands of the enemy but through His death, we eat and have sweetness.
  - vi. Samson touches a dead thing, becomes unclean to get the honey out; Jesus touches the unclean to get the honey out for us. He became sin for us (Rom 5).

15. Matthew Henry notes his riddle was his lion testimony. They couldn't figure it out. The enemy will have a hard time understanding your testimony. Enemy asks his woman to trick him into revealing his secret. Threaten her family and her with fire if she doesn't help them. Asks her a question to question her loyalty to her country.....'Have you called us here to take away what we have?' The enemy still threatens the bride (us) today. How will we respond when he rises up against us?

**<sup>16</sup> And Samson's wife wept before him, and said, Thou dost but hate me, and lovest me not: thou hast put forth a riddle unto the children of my people, and hast not told it me. And he said unto her, Behold, I have not told it my father nor my mother, and shall I tell it thee? <sup>17</sup> And she wept before him the seven days, while their feast lasted: and it came to**

**pass on the seventh day, that he told her, because she lay sore upon him: and she told the riddle to the children of her people.**

16. Notice what she does to try and trick him.
- a. Cries. Don't let the tears cause you to give up your secrets or do something you are not feeling. Better check with the Holy Ghost.
  - b. Tries to say that his failure to comply with her wishes is an indication that he doesn't love her. Be careful. I've heard that one before.
  - c. If you really love me, you'll do this for me. That sound familiar? Don't be tricked into obeying the crowd.
    - i. Okay couples, make sure that your accusations are not motivated by fear or the enemy.
    - ii. I can sometimes tell whether the Spirit is the motivator....because it will come in the form of a question rather than an accusation, e.g., Jesus asks Peter a question rather than accuse him.
  - d. I haven't told my own folks, why should I tell you? At least he knows and trusts his parents, why would he trust her more than them. Samson will often have a good initial response....but he doesn't hold on till the end.
  - e. The reason why he spills the beans to her is explained. Because she kept pressing him to do it. There is a lesson in here for each of us. Whether spouse, family, crowd or friends, if they are not closely aligned to God (and she wasn't) then be very careful doing what they are pressing you to do.
17. Never told her husband what the problem was, trying to play along with the enemy and deceive her husband to get around it. It was out of fear, her fear was greater than her love for Samson or as some commentaries state, she may have felt that Samson wouldn't have been able to protect her.
- a. There could be a **spiritual application** for us. We should be careful that the threats and fear resulting from the enemy or our problems, don't cause us to not trust in the one source who can defeat the enemy and protect/deliver us.
  - b. We are the bride of Christ.
  - c. Our King has and will rescue us, trusting Him is an exercise of our faith.
  - d. Notice....she acts the exact opposite of Samson's mother.

**<sup>18</sup> And the men of the city said unto him on the seventh day before the sun went down, What is sweeter than honey? And what is stronger than a lion? And he said unto them, If ye had not plowed with my heifer, ye had not found out my riddle.**

**<sup>19</sup> And the Spirit of the LORD came upon him, and he went down to Ashkelon, and slew thirty men of them, and took their spoil, and gave change of garments unto them which expounded the riddle. And his anger was kindled, and he went up to his father's house.**

**<sup>20</sup> But Samson's wife was given to his companion, whom he had used as his friend.**

18. They give him the answer. He tells them if they had not cheated, they wouldn't have figured it out.
  - a. They gave him the answer to the riddle, but they don't understand the true meaning.
19. Spirit of God came on him....after he was done wrong and deceived by the enemy. Went and took out thirty of them to pay off the debt. He got mad and went home. Went "up" to his father's house. Whenever the enemy disappoints you, it is good to go up to the Father. Instead of celebrating, we ought to be mad when the enemy tricks us out of what's rightfully ours.
  - a. Ashkelon = the fire of infamy, I shall be weighed.
  - b. This is the occasion that they were looking for.
  - c. Interesting. He gets connected to the enemy who does him wrong and that is the very occasion he needed to have an excuse to seek an opportunity against the enemy. So Jesus connects himself with the world which does him wrong, seeking an occasion to take out the enemy.
  - d. After his hurt and disappointment and anger, he goes to his father's house. Application for us today? We need to get back, go up, rest and recovery is found there, not in the place where you were just deceived.
20. Enemy gives away what was his to one of his so-called friends. Where did these friends come from again?

Application: Samson = like the sun. Samson has a weakness. Women and hanging out around unclean things and the wrong people. When he goes to pursue this woman from the enemy, he picks up some companions or friends. Who gave him these friends and who picked them out for him? The enemy. Did he ever consult with God on whether these should have been his friends? Nope. It is only when these friends do him wrong and threaten his family that he finally jumps into action against them. If they didn't treat him badly, he never would have had the opportunity or occasion to begin to attack them and in the process start to set his people free. Has God ever used your weakness as an occasion to get you out of some bad relationships, bad situations, that your choices placed you in, and because of the hurt and damage and things you lost in that/those situations God used it to give you the power to begin to overcome the enemy and break free. Think about it.

Recall, even though some may see a weakness of Samson here, it is still clear that God was looking to use the enemy actions against them. God still uses the enemy's actions against us as an opportunity to gain victory over the enemy.

Knowing that the enemy is really not your friend or for you is a good place to start to let the Spirit of God lead you to victory over the enemy today.

Jesus also through the misdeeds of the enemy when he is crucified has authority over the enemy to begin to deliver us from the stronghold of the enemy.