

Chapter 16

Then went Samson to Gaza, and saw there a harlot, and went in unto her. ² And it was told the Gazites, saying, Samson is come hither. And they compassed him in, and laid wait for him all night in the gate of the city, and were quiet all the night, saying, In the morning, when it is day, we shall kill him.

Verse 1 – Gaza – 35 miles south of where he lived. Gaza = the strong, Philistine city, fortified. An enemy stronghold.

- Sins with a hooker. Go to Gaza and there's a good chance you'll find a trap or bad situation.

Verse 2 – when you are in sin, it may seem okay for a while, but in the background, the enemy is trying to surround you quietly to take you out. He's in the wrong place doing the wrong thing and the enemy finds out and tries to take advantage of his error.

Application for Today: The enemy still is looking to see where you are.... where you are spiritually, emotionally, and physically, etc. If you are in the wrong place in your mind in a certain situation.... you can anticipate the enemy and temptation will surround you looking for the opportunity to kill. Kill what? Your dreams, future, what you have, relationships, your peace, you!

- When you find yourself in that place in your mind.... don't stay there too long. The enemy waits to see how you will respond.

Question: This thought just popped in my head (thank you Holy Ghost); why do you think the enemy wanted to wait until morning to attack him? Why not attack him right now? When you correctly answer this question.... you will have your application for today and what you should be aware of in your Christian walk. Be careful out there.

³ And Samson lay till midnight, and arose at midnight, and took the doors of the gate of the city, and the two posts, and went away with them, bar and all, and put them upon his shoulders, and carried them up to the top of a hill that is before Hebron.

Verse 3 – He didn't stay there all night. Escaped. Used a great feat of strength to get away. What the enemy was trying to use to trap him, he took to the top of a hill or higher place.

- Hebron = association. City in Judah, David's capital city before Jerusalem. Anywhere from 4 miles or 40 miles, estimate is the gates weighed 2.5 tons. I think the spirit was still on him even though he sinned. Application? Grace? Don't get fooled here.
- In sin but leaves early and escapes.

One of my favorite commentaries, David Guzik states:

Samson wanted to be used by God, but he also yielded to the deceitfulness of sin. He kept the external features of his Nazirite vow zealously, while at the same time sinning blatantly with a prostitute.

Samson did what we nearly all do when deceived by sin. He put his life into categories, and figured that some categories God cared about, and some categories God did not care about. Understanding that Jesus has claim over our entire life is a radical change of perspective.

Despite his sin, God still gave Samson supernatural strength to escape from the Philistines. God did this because God's purpose was bigger than Samson himself, and because **God used Samson despite Samson's sin, not because of it.**

⁴ And it came to pass afterward, that he loved a woman in the valley of Sorek, whose name was Delilah.

Verse 4 – after a while, he fell in love with another woman named Delilah. Delilah = feeble; Means to weaken or impoverish; a Philistine mistress. Sorek = choice vines. Keeps going to the wrong place.

- My research indicates it may have been a border town between the Philistines and tribe of Dan, so it was pushing the envelope. How far can he go without crossing the line.... this is a recipe for disaster. Should have been moving away from the border rather than closer to a girl named “to weaken and impoverish”.

⁵ And the lords of the Philistines came up unto her, and said unto her, Entice him, and see wherein his great strength lieth, and by what means we may prevail against him, that we may bind him to afflict him; and we will give thee every one of us eleven hundred pieces of silver.

Verse 5 – Not completely wrong yet until the enemy got to her and used her. Bribed her with money to betray God's servant. What thing in the world is the enemy using to bribe you to turn your back on Jesus? It was easy for the enemy to get her since she was already in the vicinity of the enemy.

- They knew that his strength didn't come from his body. They couldn't figure out the source of his strength. We know the source of his strength was the Holy Spirit. They of course wouldn't understand that.
- Note: Jesus, our deliverer was betrayed for money as well.

⁶ And Delilah said to Samson, Tell me, I pray thee, wherein thy great strength lieth, and wherewith thou mightest be bound to afflict thee. ⁷ And Samson said unto her, If they

bind me with seven green withs that were never dried, then shall I be weak, and be as another man. ⁸ Then the lords of the Philistines brought up to her seven green withs which had not been dried, and she bound him with them. ⁹ Now there were men lying in wait, abiding with her in the chamber. And she said unto him, The Philistines be upon thee, Samson. And he break the withs, as a thread of tow is broken when it toucheth the fire. So his strength was not known.

Verse 6 – Here we go again.... didn't we see this play before in Chapter 14. Please tell me why he is doing this again? There's no occasion for the Lord here. She doesn't even hide her purpose. Tell me the secret of your success so I can know how to hold you down and make you suffer. Really dude? Better hear this. She even sounds like the enemy. The same line is being repeated today. The enemy will place temptations in your path for the purpose of tricking you out of your strength with an end goal to hold you down and afflict you.

- Enemy wants to hold you down and promote his agenda, while God wants to elevate you and bring you into His perfect plan. Why are you still getting tricked out of the better plan?
- Enemy is very interested in understanding how you are able to make it through and make it out of situations for the express purpose of trying to bind.... not just hold you...but to bring you pain.

Verse 7 – Told her a lie. Withs = cords. He's playing around. Stop playing around, just tell them you're a Christian so they can stop inviting you to sin. Enemy will try to wear you out and outlast you. Note from Matthew Henry Commentary – he must have known he was in danger, or he never would have seen the need to lie.

Verse 8 – the enemy supplies her with what she needed to try and bind him. Get this. The people against you may be tricky, might be in relationship with you, yet getting supplies from the enemy for the purpose of trying to hold you down and take you out. Did you catch that? While God will supply your needs according to His riches in glory, the enemy will supply your carnal needs for the purpose of bringing you poor and shame. Who will you choose to be your supplier?

Verse 9 – Enemy was hiding in her chamber, set a trap at her place, enemy was staying there with her....be careful who you hook up with and where you go, it could be a hangout for the enemy.

- She shows up with the stuff and tests him by telling him the enemy is upon him, tries to bind him.
- He breaks free easily. Enemy didn't get what they came for. Something that was important to his success was still intact.

Gather around young men, here is a classic lesson from history. You can place yourself in difficult situations, find yourself in the wrong bedroom and not realize the enemy and temptation is waiting for you right there. Herein lies the danger and deception, if you are successful in escaping...you may go back to that same situation another time and figure since you didn't get burned the last time, you will be strong enough to make it out again. You are playing with fire. Samson is playing not realizing in

actuality, he is the one who is really getting played. You may think it won't happen to you.... but I promise you there are a multitude of witnesses after Samson, even today who can testify of getting burned playing around with this fire. Reference Solomon's passages, Proverbs 7:26 and Proverbs 6:26.

Application: protect your anointing and what God has given you from the enemy at all costs.

¹⁰ And Delilah said unto Samson, Behold, thou hast mocked me, and told me lies: now tell me, I pray thee, wherewith thou mightest be bound. ¹¹ And he said unto her, If they bind me fast with new ropes that never were occupied, then shall I be weak, and be as another man. ¹² Delilah therefore took new ropes, and bound him therewith, and said unto him, The Philistines be upon thee, Samson. And there were liars in wait abiding in the chamber. And he break them from off his arms like a thread.

Verse 10 – Delilah is upset. Tells him he's playing with her. Stop playing with sin and the enemy. Still wants to know how she can bind him. Bad women want to try and tie you up. How can you tell she's a bad woman for Samson?

- She is in with the wrong crowd of people.
- She is more concerned with herself and her needs and desires rather than what is good and best for Samson.
- She has no problem or remorse over trying to hurt Samson to get her way.
- She knows who his enemies are, and she knows what will cause him to jump into action, and she keeps playing that same card (the Philistines be upon thee) to see if the trap works.

How can we protect ourselves from these kinds of people when we sometimes enjoy their company and they satisfy a need or desire?

- The Spirit of Truth, John 16:13-14.

Verse 11 – You ever been invited to something you know is a bad deal and instead of just saying no, you come up with an excuse or lie to get around it, just so you can participate in it?

Verse 12 – So here she shows up again with the items to try and bind him. Next time you go over the wrong person's house, better check out what they have around there. Be aware of their surroundings.

- Enemy still hiding over at her place. Better watch what's happening here.
 - **Important application** – the enemy is lurking and waiting for you not only if you are in the wrong physical place. Please look at this from a spiritual perspective, if your thoughts and mind and desires are hanging around the wrong place.... the enemy waits for you there as well to try and trap you in that place and remove you from the power and influence of the Holy Spirit.
- Again, he escapes with no problem.
- Notice, each time he escapes, it's because he doesn't fall all the way into the trap; still playing with trouble. This used to be me. Be careful.

13 And Delilah said unto Samson, Hitherto thou hast mocked me, and told me lies: tell me wherewith thou mightest be bound. And he said unto her, If thou weavest the seven locks of my head with the web. 14 And she fastened it with the pin, and said unto him, The Philistines be upon thee, Samson. And he awaked out of his sleep, and went away with the pin of the beam, and with the web.

Verse 13 – She complains, and he lies again but he’s getting closer to revealing the secret that the enemy wants. Weave the 7 locks. The other lies had nothing to do with his hair. He continues to play with fire.

Verse 14 – she tries again. Notice he’s asleep. Can’t be sleeping while the enemy is around. Must watch and pray. He escapes again with no problems.

His success is leading him into a false sense of security.

This is almost comical if we didn’t know the outcome. But we do know the outcome and what in some points is comical, it ends up a tragedy. There is nothing funny about sin.

15 And she said unto him, How canst thou say, I love thee, when thine heart is not with me? thou hast mocked me these three times, and hast not told me wherein thy great strength lieth. 16 And it came to pass, when she pressed him daily with her words, and urged him, so that his soul was vexed unto death;

Verse 15 – He must have professed his love for this woman. She uses it against him. Listen to what she says and know so if you have ever heard this before or hear it again, you can understand the spirit behind it. How can you say you love me if your heart isn’t with me? Compares love for her with him giving her his heart...evidence to her of giving his heart is making himself weak. Give your heart to God dudes. Stop getting played. Three times he escapes...that should be proof that she ain’t right for him.

Verse 16 – pressed him every day. Enemy might come at you daily. Pressing him, staying on him, constant temptation. That’s what happens when you are in the wrong place with the wrong people. You are constantly being attacked by the enemy. Why go through that. It weakens you. See what happens to Samson and take notes.

- If he was never there in the first place, he would not have to deal with this stress. We often place ourselves into unnecessary battles due to our choices.
- He could have avoided this. He should have quit this when he first found out she was trying to use him.
- She didn’t let up; didn’t put a gun to his head. Used words. Enemy can’t make you give up your secret or sin. Enemy can only entice and tempt you...can’t make you do it.
- Result, his soul was tired and grieved. Soulful realm, but that’s not where his strength was.

- When the soul gets tired, you can make bad decisions. The soul (knowledge, feelings, and emotions) should never have control over the Spirit. It should be the other way around; the Spirit should control the soulish realm. In this case, Samson is out of spiritual control.

I'm not giving my heart to anybody who has not given their heart to God. Be evenly yoked.

¹⁷ That he told her all his heart, and said unto her, There hath not come a razor upon mine head; for I have been a Nazarite unto God from my mother's womb: if I be shaven, then my strength will go from me, and I shall become weak, and be like any other man.

Verse 17 – his heart was at one time consecrated to God, but now he gives it to one whose name means I want to make you weak. Exposes himself more by telling his secret. Tells her he had been set apart to God. Hair was the condition needed for him to remain strong. It was a sign of his consecration or what set him apart from others for the service of God.

- Hair was an outward sign of his relationship and consecration. What is your sign today?
- There must be something about the importance of consecration and your strength in the Holy Spirit that ties together. When you are not consecrated, you are slipping into weakness. I can't keep going there and not get weaker. Remember, we are not just limiting this application to being at the wrong physical location. **You can be in the wrong place in your mind and in your thoughts and if you stay in this place too long, the enemy waits for you there.**
- Proverbs 23:26-28

¹⁸ And when Delilah saw that he had told her all his heart, she sent and called for the lords of the Philistines, saying, Come up this once, for he hath shewed me all his heart. Then the lords of the Philistines came up unto her, and brought money in their hand.

Using Samson just to get what she wants. I don't want to treat God like this. No hidden motives. Giving your heart to God is a lot safer and rewarding in the end than giving your heart to the world and flesh. That worldly pleasure only lasts about as long as the taste of a good bubble-gum.

Verse 18 – Delilah can tell when he has emotionally given her his heart...because they move in the realm of emotion. She knew it so she calls for the enemy to come up quickly. She gets her reward...wasn't really after his heart or goodwill...it was all about the Benjamins.

19 And she made him sleep upon her knees; and she called for a man, and she caused him to shave off the seven locks of his head; and she began to afflict him, and his strength went from him. 20 And she said, The Philistines be upon thee, Samson. And he awoke out of his sleep, and said, I will go out as at other times before, and shake myself. And he wist not that the LORD was departed from him.

Verse 19 – puts him to sleep again. That’s when he was most vulnerable. Take notes sleeping with the enemy. She’s working for the enemy and she enlists others to afflict Samson. She afflicts him.... notice she really couldn’t touch him until he dropped his guard and put his trust in her. When someone takes you away from the power of the Holy Spirit, they are afflicting you.

- Where is your heart today?
- Where are you putting your trust in today?
- His strength is gone. What he had; he doesn’t have any more. Loses some stuff. Why, because he placed his trust in something and someone other than God. Had already lost his consecration, now loses the power. No strength anymore.
- How many times have we lost things that are important to us and the source of our strength? Replay in your mind, did you go through the spiritual deception process that Samson went through leading to the fall or loss?
- While he was sleeping, she started to afflict = humble or put someone down. The methods one uses to bring someone down may differ, but the results are the same. It wasn’t an army but a girl. Wasn’t a war, but a battle was involved.

Verse 20 – One of the saddest verses in the Bible. Awake in the natural but not awake to the sorry state of his fallen condition.

- Gonna preach like he used to preach and think he’ll get the same results.
- Gonna just do what I’ve done before, and God will still bless it.... wrong.
- Goes through the same motions as before, does the same thing he had done before, but something was different now...he just didn’t notice it.
- When you are outside of God’s protection, you become vulnerable to the enemy.
- Sleeping while all this was happening with the enemy all around.... watch!!!
- He was successful before in shaking stuff off him that was trying to hold him down and take him out; but now when he tries it, it ain’t working for him. Anointing is gone, which means you can experience great victory and still lose your power. Have great fellowship and God use you mightily one day, and your actions and decisions can cause God to leave you and take His Spirit with Him and you may not even notice until it’s too late. Wasn’t going to find out until the enemy got a hold of him and imprisoned him.

Often, we don’t even know the Spirit has left us until something really bad starts to happen.

Be careful, God is not with us on everything we do. We confuse mercy and grace with being mature in Him. Just because you've enjoyed some blessings and escapes doesn't mean you are being led by the Spirit.

21 But the Philistines took him, and put out his eyes, and brought him down to Gaza, and bound him with fetters of brass; and he did grind in the prison house.

Verse 21 – “But” means he had plans to do one thing, but the enemy intercepted those plans. He was expecting one thing, but the enemy caused him to have a change of plans. Notice, God didn't do this to him or cause this to happen. He couldn't really blame God because it wasn't God's fault. We expect to make bad decisions and still have God stay with us and bless us in those bad decisions and bad places. Check yourself when you think it's God's fault, it might be your fault.

- First, they took him.
- Put out his eyes....so he couldn't see any more. Application? Enemy first wants to blind you. Take away your ability to see. Ever been in a situation where you can't see anymore? Try to shake it off on your own but that doesn't work and now you can't see a way out. His sin started with his eyes and that was the first thing to go.
- Didn't lift him up, because enemy always wants to bring you down.
- Bound him, tied him down to keep him from getting away. He couldn't shake this one off in his current condition. Why couldn't he shake it off? Look at verse 20 again....no humility.... just I will go out and shake myself.... but no reliance on God, no repentance, no humility.... leads to no power and no Holy Spirit. Pride leads to the fall.
- Grinds mill in prison. Sent away to prison to do unappealing work...it was a grind. Bad decisions can land you in the big house, in bondage. Grinding – to pulverize, to weaken or destroy.
- Back to Gaza...the very place he had escaped once before, now he's trapped there now.

22 Howbeit the hair of his head began to grow again after he was shaven.

Verse 22 – after all of this trouble and loss, there is still hope. After he was shaved, after he lost it all, that's when his hair began to grow back. Shouldn't have lost it at all, but nice to know you can get it back when you are humbled. After the pain, while he was still grinding, when he was still in prison, something he lost was coming back. Something was growing.

Application: After the mistake, after the error, after you have turned from God in your bad decisions, there is hope for another chance. The first step after a fall is ALWAYS humility. If my people called by my name will humble themselves (first step) then follow the other steps to receive healing and restoration from God. It is all part of the plan!

Good news....it might look bad now, but this thing ain't over.

²³ Then the lords of the Philistines gathered them together for to offer a great sacrifice unto Dagon their god, and to rejoice: for they said, Our god hath delivered Samson our enemy into our hand. ²⁴ And when the people saw him, they praised their god: for they said, Our god hath delivered into our hands our enemy, and the destroyer of our country, which slew many of us. ²⁵ And it came to pass, when their hearts were merry, that they said, Call for Samson, that he may make us sport. And they called for Samson out of the prison house; and he made them sport: and they set him between the pillars.

Verse 23 – Philistines get together to worship and sacrifice to Dagon – fish. They are happy. Why, because they have Samson, and they give the credit to their god.

Application: when Christians in the flesh fall, it provides the opportunity for the enemies of the Kingdom to celebrate. When we fall as Christians, it causes others to start celebrating and worshipping the wrong things. We represent God in Christ, when we fail, it draws people away from Him.

Verse 24 – People had a party. They were happy. Why? Because Samson was delivered and in bondage. Point, the enemy is happy and rejoices when he can capture a Saint. We ought to be making the enemy mad rather than glad. 1 Cor 10:7...idolatry. Samson's fall contributes to unbelievers continuing to go down the wrong path.... giving a god they made by hand credit.

Verse 25 – Enemy also has fun when he's making fun of you. When you are being made fun of or made to look stupid by the enemy, then expect the enemy to watch and enjoy the show. When you are looking silly, the enemy likes to watch the show.

In his now humble and broken state, the enemy looks on his condition as entertainment, God looks upon it as the first step for new opportunity.

²⁶ And Samson said unto the lad that held him by the hand, Suffer me that I may feel the pillars whereupon the house standeth, that I may lean upon them.

Verse 26 – humbled, this once great man has to ask a child for help. Wants to lean upon the foundation of the building.

Question: Why do you think Samson wanted to lean on these two pillars? Is it possible that in his humble and broken state, he is executing hope and faith? I think so.

27 Now the house was full of men and women; and all the lords of the Philistines were there; and there were upon the roof about three thousand men and women, that beheld while Samson made sport.

Verse 27 – 3,000 about to get waxed. Isn't that the same number saved in Acts? Enemy having fun but that's about to change.

28 And Samson called unto the LORD, and said, O Lord God, remember me, I pray thee, and strengthen me, I pray thee, only this once, O God, that I may be at once avenged of the Philistines for my two eyes.

Verse 28 – Humbled, he calls on God. Makes a request after making a mistake:

- Remember me.
- Prays. Prayer is a critical part of repentance.
- Asks for strength, so he must have been weak.
- Just one more time.
- Revenge for the enemy losing his eyes – notice, his hair starts to grow back, but his eyes didn't. Samson sees the greater damage was in having his sight taken away. You ought to be mad too! Notice, his hair grows back but he never gets his eyes back. Application – because of sin and bad decisions, you can recover, but some things you may never get back. There is a price to pay for sin.

Observation: it was his eyes that helped get him in trouble in the first place. Be careful what you look at and focus on.

29 And Samson took hold of the two middle pillars upon which the house stood, and on which it was borne up, of the one with his right hand, and of the other with his left.

30 And Samson said, Let me die with the Philistines. And he bowed himself with all his might; and the house fell upon the lords, and upon all the people that were therein. So the dead which he slew at his death were more than they which he slew in his life.

Verse 29 – Attacks the foundation. When dealing with the enemy, get to the heart of the matter.

Verse 30 – Bowed himself with all his might. Took all his might to get down and leverage himself for greatness. Achieved more in this act causing his death than he did when he was alive.

You will often hear me state, your best days in God are in front of you. This is one of the examples why I firmly and confidently believe this is true for every believer. It may not turn out like you expected and

might look different than planned.... but in the end...you will see that it turned out much better and greater than expected.

³¹ Then his brethren and all the house of his father came down, and took him, and brought him up, and buried him between Zorah and Eshtaol in the burying place of Manoah his father. And he judged Israel twenty years.

Verse 31 – buried at the place where he started. Should have had 20 more years. Was great, could have lasted longer and been greater. Notice where they had to go in order to get his body.... the enemy's camp. Without Samson's victory, they never would have been able to go back in there without being taken out.

Final Summary

- Don't think you are getting away with sin because there isn't immediate damage. God is not mocked. Can trick yourself into thinking you could get away with it, that the rules didn't apply to you. This is a clear lesson for those who are in power.
- Source of our strength is the Holy Spirit and secret of that strength is consecration or separation. Need both. You can have consecration but not have the power.
- Sin will blind you, bind you, and grind you.
- Hair grows back, grace abounds, but some things you'll never get back.... never got his eyes back because of sin. Greatest moment ahead but there were still some permanent repercussions. Sin can leave some permanent scars.
 - It is good to know that you can still experience God's best or do great things for the Kingdom after a mistake or sin. Samson suffers from his mistake, but it didn't disqualify him from doing his best work for the Kingdom.
 - Some things you don't have to suffer to experience God's best. The Winans sang it's good to know He'll be there if ever I fall; it's better to know that I don't have to fall at all.
- Sin gives the enemies of God a reason to rejoice.
- Requests that God deal with an enemy that blinds. God honors the request. We should pray that today.
- Greatness comes when we choose to give up self, die to self, and live for God.
- The Philistines trusted in and praised their own gods. The celebration was to honor their gods and they gathered for that purpose but didn't realize their fall would come quickly to an end. So is the case for the unbeliever who place their trust in idol gods and the world order.... eventually in the end, the party stops, and it all comes crashing down upon them.



- Whenever Samson got mad at the enemy, he did great things for the Kingdom. What does it look like today to get mad at what the enemy has done? We should be mad at the devil rather than being friendly with the enemy.
- God's best doesn't happen until you sacrifice yourself.

Matthew Henry:

Christ was plainly typified. He pulled down the devil's kingdom, as Samson did Dagon's temple; and, when he died, he obtained the most glorious victory over the powers of darkness. Then when his arms were stretched out upon the cross, as Samson's to the two pillars, he gave a fatal shake to the gates of hell, and, *through death, destroyed him that had the power of death, that is, the devil (Heb. 2:14, 15)*, and herein exceeded Samson, that he not only died with the Philistines, but rose again to triumph over them.