Samson and Delilah

Judges 16:1-21

Introduction:

Satan appears in our Bible reading for this past week. In Job chapter one God asks Satan where he has been.

He answers: “From ﻿﻿going to and fro on the earth, and from walking back and forth on it.”

In chapter 2 the Lord asks the same question and gets the same answer: “From going to and fro on the earth, and from walking back and forth on it.”

What is Satan doing as he is walking?

Peter tells us in his first epistle,

“Be ﻿﻿sober, be ﻿﻿vigilant; ﻿﻿because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.” (5:8)

It’s true that he gets help him from his demons and from us sometimes, but he is behind the temptations. It has been so since the Garden of Eden.

But today is probably one of the most temptation saturated periods of all of history. Someone said, “Everything from soft drinks to tires is sold by sex.”

Satan was working overtime on Samson. This passage is about Samson and Delilah, but the first three verses of chapter 16 prepare us for that subject.

Now Samson went to ﻿﻿Gaza and saw a harlot there, and went in to her.

This incident tells us at least 2 things about Samson that explain the condemnation of his sin with Delilah.

1. He Visited a Harlot in Gaza. (Samson was a sex-addict)

When the men of the city learned about his presence in the city, they made a plan to capture him – at daybreak.

“When the Gazites *were told,* “Samson has come here!” they ﻿﻿surrounded *the place* and lay in wait for him all night at the gate of the city. They were quiet all night, saying, “In the morning, when it is daylight, we will kill him.” And Samson lay *low* till midnight; then he arose at midnight, took hold of the doors of the gate of the city and the two gateposts, pulled them up, bar and all, put *them* on his shoulders, and carried them to the top of the hill that faces Hebron.”

2. He Put on Display of His Supernatural Strength. (Samson had great confidence in his strength.)

Samson fooled them – again. He pulled up the gateposts, bar and all, put *them* on his shoulders, and carried them to the top of the hill that faces Hebron.

This has to be the greatest display of strength in all of history.

He put them up on the hill so that no one could miss it.

I. The Importance of Samson’s Defeat – 16:4-5

“Afterward it happened that he loved a woman in the Valley of Sorek, whose name *was* Delilah. And the ﻿﻿lords of the Philistines came up to her and said to her, ﻿﻿“Entice him, and find out where his great strength *lies,* and by what *means* we may overpower him, that we may bind him to afflict him; and every one of us will give you eleven hundred *pieces* of silver.”

Note: the sin which is condemned in Judges 16 is not the sin of adultery, per-se.

It is the sin of the believer allowing any physical passion to come between him and God.

Peter reminds us that corruption *that is* in the world (is) through lust.

* It started through lust- Genesis 3

* It is fed through lust as pictured in Samson and in us if we are not careful.

* It is overcome as we partake of the Divine nature by taking hold of the exceedingly great and precious promises – 2 Peter 1:4.

I’ll go into this detail lest some among us should say, “sexual lust is not a problem with me. I can just ignore lesson of Samson.”

The priority is shown by:

A. The Price Offered

Now back to the importance of Samson’s defeat.

It was so important to the lords of the Philistines that they are willing to pay 1100 pieces of silver. Someone said that it equaled $5,000. But we don’t know how many “eaches” there were. I’ll settle for “a super sum of silver.”

B. The People who Offered It.

It was the Lords of the Philistines. (They are mentioned 5 times in this passage).

II. The Instructions for Samson’s Defeat – 16:6-14

A. The Seven Fresh Bowstrings – 16:6-9

“So Delilah said to Samson, “Please tell me where your great strength *lies,* and with what you may be bound to afflict you.” And Samson said to her, “If they bind me with seven fresh bowstrings, not yet dried, then I shall become weak, and be like any *other* man.” So the lords of the Philistines brought up to her seven fresh bowstrings, not yet dried, and she bound him with them. Now *men were* lying in wait, staying with her in the room. And she said to him, “The Philistines *are* upon you, Samson!” But he broke the bowstrings as a strand of yarn breaks when it touches fire.

So the secret of his strength was not known.

B. Seven New Ropes – 16:10-14 (See 15:13)

“Then Delilah said to Samson, “Look, you have mocked me and told me lies. Now, please tell me what you may be bound with.” So he said to her, “If they bind me securely with ﻿﻿new ropes ﻿﻿that have never been used, then I shall become weak, and be like any *other* man.” Therefore Delilah took new ropes and bound him with them, and said to him, “The Philistines *are* upon you, Samson!” And *men were* lying in wait, staying in the room. But he broke them off his arms like a thread.”

C. Weave the locks of my head into the loom – 16:13-14

“Delilah said to Samson, “Until now you have mocked me and told me lies. Tell me what you may be bound with.” And he said to her, “If you weave the seven locks of my head into the web of the loom”— So she wove *it* tightly with the batten of the loom, and said to him, “The Philistines *are* upon you, Samson!” But he awoke from his sleep, and pulled out the batten and the web from the loom.”

III. The Implications of Samson’s Defeat – 15-16

A. He Compromised His Convictions – 16:15

“Then she said to him, ﻿﻿“How can you say, ‘I love you,’ when your heart *is* not with me? You have mocked me these three times, and have not told me where your great strength *lies.*”

Samson has heard this one before:

Judges 14:16

“Then Samson’s wife wept on him, and said, ﻿﻿“You only hate me! You do not love me! You have posed a riddle to the sons of my people, but you have not explained *it* to me.”

B. He Lusted Away His Logic - 16:16

“And it came to pass, when she pestered him daily with her words and pressed him, *so* that his soul was ﻿﻿vexed to death, that he ﻿﻿told her all his heart…

She nagged him and nagged him until he gave in.

He knew what she was after in the first place. She told him plainly! (verse 4)

He thought it was a game. I can play around and not get hurt.

John Wesley (whose entire Christian life was a quest for holiness) said, “When I am tempted, I flee to a crowd.”

But that’s why God said through Paul,

﻿“Flee also youthful lusts; but pursue righteousness, faith, love, peace with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart.” (2 Timothy 2:22)

Proverbs 4:14, 15

“Do not enter the path of the wicked, and do not walk in the way of evil. Avoid it, do not travel on it; Turn away from it and pass on.

Also Psalm 1 -

Sin is like a woodpecker: He never quits! Even on metal poles.

IV. The Indications of Samson’s Defeat – 16:17-21

A. He Lost the Revelation of His Strength – 16:17-18

“that he ﻿﻿told her all his heart, and said to her, ﻿﻿“No razor has ever come upon my head, for I *have been* a Nazirite to God from my mother’s womb. If I am shaven, then my strength will leave me, and I shall become weak, and be like any *other* man.”

Delilah now has his secret. She should never have known this. She was a Philistine. She was the enemy!

It was Samson’s secret, and he lost it. If he hadn’t been hanging around the enemy, she never would have talked it out of him.

“When Delilah saw that he had told her all his heart, she sent and called for the lords of the Philistines, saying, “Come up once more, for he has told me all his heart.” So the lords of the Philistines came up to her and brought the money in their hand.”

I wonder why they believed her again.

B. He Lost the Reservoir of His Strength - 16:19

“Then she lulled him to sleep on her knees, and called for a man and had him shave off the seven locks of his head. Then ﻿﻿she began to torment him, and his strength left him.”

Many conclude from these verses that Samson’s strength was in his hair—not so!

Samson’s strength was in his God. His connection with his God was his vow the sign of the vow was his hair.

When his hair was cut, his vow was broken. His connection with God was broken and his strength was gone!

C. He Lost the Realization of His Strength – 16:20-21

“And she said, “The Philistines *are* upon you, Samson!” So he awoke from his sleep, and said, “I will go out as before, at other times, and shake myself free!”

It is sad that his strength is gone and that the Lord has departed from him, but worse still is the fact that Samson doesn’t even realize that it has happened!

But he did not know that the Lord ﻿﻿had departed from him.

This reminds me of the time when Jesus was 12 years old and went to the temple with His parents.

“When they had finished the ﻿﻿days, as they returned, the Boy Jesus lingered behind in Jerusalem. And ﻿﻿Joseph and His mother did not know *it* but supposing Him to have been in the company, they went a day’s journey, and sought Him among *their* relatives and acquaintances. (Luke 2:43-44)

The same thing can happen in our day:

We play around too close to sin. We play with sin. We fall in sin.

Then we keep on doing service (we think no one knows) and we don’t know that the Lord is not with us. We assume that He is with someone in the church.

It is not the Lord’s work that is going on; it is our work!

“Then the Philistines took him and put out his eyes, and brought him down to Gaza. They bound him with bronze fetters, and he became a grinder in the prison. However, the hair of his head began to grow again after it had been shaven.” (16:21)

Conclusion:

What can we do to escape the temptation of the devil?

There are three principles in I Corinthians 10:13 which will help us not to be victims of temptation, but to be victors over it.

1. Temptation is Common.

“No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man;

You are not being singled out to be tempted any more than any other person.

Some people may be more victorious.

Others may be good at hiding it.

But we all have temptation.

Welcome to the club.

2. The Extent of Temptation is controlled, but ﻿﻿God *is* faithful, ﻿﻿who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able.

3. The Escape of Temptation is certain but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to ﻿﻿bear *it.*