

SAMSON

FAMILY DEVOS



Samson and Delilah

Scripture: Judges 16:4-20

Memory Verse: John 15:5

“I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing.”

For My Family:

For many years, Samson had allowed temptation to overcome his faith in God. Of the three components of his Nazarite vow, only his promise not to cut the hair on his head remained uncompromised. In this, the most famous moment of Samson’s life, we see that this last part of Samson’s vow was also broken, and sadly, so was Samson. Samson fell in love with a woman named Delilah. She was also in love, but she didn’t love Samson. She loved money. The Philistines offered her a treasure to discover the secret of Samson’s strength so that they could overwhelm him and take him prisoner. Even though it should have been obvious to Samson that Delilah was wicked and seeking to harm him, Samson succumbed and finally revealed that his hair had never been cut. Delilah had Samson’s head shaved, and the Spirit of the Lord departed from him, leaving him weak. He was taken by the Philistines, and sadly, was badly wounded by them, leaving him blind.

Samson’s strength wasn’t found in his arms, so binding him with seven fresh bow strings wouldn’t weaken him. It wasn’t found in his hands, so tying him up with seven new ropes wouldn’t defeat him either. It also wasn’t found in his hair. Samson’s strength came from the Lord. Samson had been set apart to be different, and the Lord blessed him because of that. Unfortunately, Samson’s love for the things of the earth proved to be greater than this love for the Lord, and that is why he lost his strength.

There are two great lessons to be learned from this. First is that we can damage our relationship with the Lord so greatly (by loving the things of the earth more than God) that God ceases to work in our lives. We can reject what God wants to do in us, relying on our own strength, which of course leads to failure. Second is that anyone, no matter how strong, how important, or how well-known, can fall into sin. We all have to constantly be aware of our sinful desires and bring them before the Lord.

Even though Samson came to a point where he chose Delilah over the Lord, the Lord was not done with Samson. In verse 22, even though Samson was now a blind prisoner of the Philistines, we read that, “The hair on his head began to grow again.” The Lord gave Samson hope, and as his hair began to grow again, so did his love and desire for the Lord... but we will read about that next time.

Questions for Young Children:

What did Samson tell Delilah was the secret of his strength?

Where was Samson's strength really found?

How did the Lord give Samson hope, even though he had been defeated by his enemies?

Questions for Teens and Pre-teens:

Samson was so in love with Delilah that he was willing to violate his relationship with the Lord. What are some other things that people love so much that they compromise their relationship with the Lord?

How much pressure do you feel to be in a relationship? What warnings does Samson's story give us about love and relationships?