



**“If I Had Just Listened
to My Parents!”
Judges 14:1-3**

Have You Ever Found Yourself in a Bad Situation?

- One you should have avoided altogether and had no business in that predicament in first place
- You looked back on it and all of the warning signs were there (Red flags, caution lights, stop signs) but you ignored all of them
- You say to yourself, ***“If I had just listened to my parents!”***
“If I had just listened, I wouldn’t have been in jail!”
“If I had just listened, I wouldn’t be broke!”
“If I had just listened, I wouldn’t have dropped out of school, for the easier life at the time!”
“If I had just listened, I wouldn’t have been terminated!”

Observations

- **Today, we will learn about a man who, if he had listened to his parents, his life would have had a better ending**

Samson

- **Samson was one of the Judges of Israel**
- **A Judge's main purpose was to deliver Israel from the bondage of its enemies (Philistines at this time)**
- **Samson was known to be a man of extraordinary physical strength**
- **When Samson was born, he was born a Nazarite and was not to touch or drink wine (as part of a covenant relationship with God)**

Observations

- Part of his covenant relationship with God also required him not to cut his hair
- Once, through his hair, God gave him the power to kill a Lion with his bare hands (and he knew it)
- Once, through his hair, God gave him the strength to tie the tails of 300 foxes together and set them on fire to burn the cornfields of the Philistines
- Once, through his hair, God gave him the strength to kill a thousand Philistine enemy soldiers, with the jawbone of a donkey

But!

- In Judges 16:19-21, we find that Samson's hair has been cut, his eyes gouged out, bound up in chains, and in prison, walking the grinding mill changing big rocks into small rocks all day long
- He is debilitated, defeated, and incapacitated

How Did He End Up Like This?

Was It Delilah's Fault, As Some Say?

- If he hadn't gotten involved with her, he'd still have his hair
- If he hadn't gotten involved with her, he'd still have strength
- If he hadn't gotten involved with her, he'd still have eyesight

**But the More You Read the Story,
You Find Out Whose Fault it Was for
Samson Losing These God-Given
Attributes (Hair, Eyesight, Power)**

It Was SAMSON'S!

**(Not Listening to his Parents Cost
Him Dearly)**

You See, Delilah Wasn't His First Attraction!

- In Judges 14, Samson had married a woman from Timnath, but that marriage lasted only a week
- In Judges 16, Samson got involved with a prostitute
- And then we read that Samson got involved with Delilah in Judges 16:4
- Notice that all the women Samson involved himself with were bad women (maybe eye candy outwardly, but spiritually corrupt)

NOTE

A Person's physical/financial attributes have literally nothing to do with their spiritual conduct (lust can cloud your judgment)

Judges 14 Gives Insight to Samson's Character (Personality)

- Samson came to his parents one day and told them that he had found a woman in Timnath that he wanted to marry
- But the problem was that the woman was a Philistine (enemy of Israel). She didn't know Samson's God nor his religious background
- So the first words out of his parents mouth, verse 3, *"Can't you find an available Israelite?" "Can't you find a woman in our Jewish nation?" "Your marriage will have a better chance of making it!"*
- But Samson argues: *"She's right for me!"* How can she be right for you and not "spiritually endowed" at all?

Notice What He Hasn't Done When He Informs His Parents of His Marriage Intentions

- He hasn't taken time to know her well
- He hasn't taken time to know her friends well
- He hasn't taken time to know her family well

These Make Up the Circle Of Influence That Has Shaped Her Thinking (moral conduct, disposition)

And as a result, of his poor planning, the marriage lasted 7 days!

By day 7, he was so angry with her, that he left her and went home to live with his parents, Judges 14:19

This also tells us that Samson wasn't ready for marriage

He didn't have his own place!

Samson Wasn't Ready for Marriage

- **Ladies, when a man is ready to marry, he ought to be living in his own place (apt.), and paying his own bills**
- **Be very leery of a guy that says he ready to marry, but is not yet on his own (parents, relatives paying his bills)**
- **Also, marriage counselors say that a person who has just suffered a divorce or major breakup shouldn't rush into another relationship right away (open wounds are still raw)**
- **But Samson rushes into another one, having not healed from the first one (he gave himself no time to heal)**
- **In Judges 16:1-3, Samson is involved with a prostitute**
- **In Judges 16:4, later we see him in love with Delilah**

Samson Makes the Same Marital Mistake With Both of the Women He Marries

- He loves them but they don't love him
- Judges 16:16 says that Delilah tormented him day after day
- Point: There are some women/men that don't mind going out with you, but they really despise your thinking
- They don't mind you spending money on them (riding in or driving your car, accepting gifts), but they still despise you
- As long as the relationship is contingent with what you are doing, or buying or sacrificing for them, they are o.k. with you
- **BUT THEY DON'T LOVE YOU FOR YOU!**

Finally, Why Didn't God Warn Samson About These Three Women Before He Got Involved With Them?

He Was Warned By God In Four Ways

- 1) God warned him through his parents
- 2) God warned him through a Lion attack when he was on his way to meet the woman from Timnath
- 3) God warned him when things weren't spiritually going well in his marriage to a non-spiritual woman
When you are "unequally yoked," it will eventually show up
When you marry the devil's child, you already know who your father in law is!
- 4) God warned him when he left the prostitute in the middle of the night, and the Philistines had set up an ambush for him
Judges 16:1-3 (He removed the gates from the city of Gaza)

David Raises a Wonderful Question in Psalms 119:9-11 (NIV)

***“How can a young person stay on the path
of purity?”***

By living according to your word.

I seek you with all my heart;

do not let me stray from your commands

I have hidden your word in my heart

that I might not sin against you.”

***Remember Isaiah 55:6-7 “Seek the Lord while he may be found
and call upon Him while he is near…….”***

The Plan of Salvation

Hear the Gospel

Acts 15:7

Believe the Gospel

Acts 15:7

Repent of Sins

Acts 17:30

Confess Christ

Acts 8:37

Be Baptized

Acts 8:38