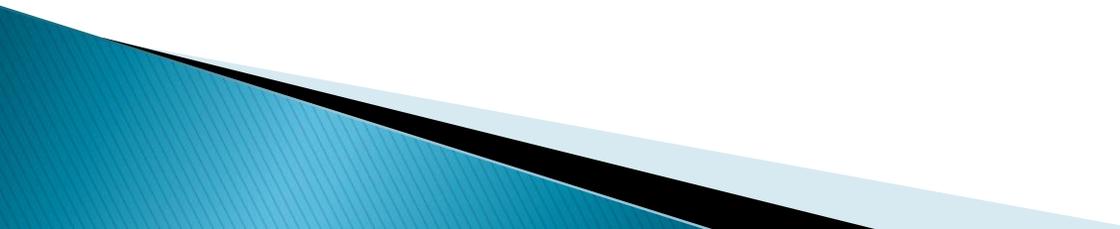


**“If I Had Just Listened to My
Mama!”
Judges 14:1–3**

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Observations

- ▶ How many of you have ever found yourselves in a bad situation that you should have avoided?
 - ▶ You had no business in it, in the first place
 - ▶ You look back at it and all the signs were there
 - (Red flags, Caution lights, Stop signs)
 - ▶ You ignored them all!
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At the End You Found Yourself Saying These Words

“If I Had Just Listened To My Mama”
or “If I Had Just Listened to My Mama and
Daddy”

- ▶ *“I wouldn’t be in jail”*
- ▶ *“I wouldn’t be broke”*
- ▶ *“I wouldn’t have dropped out of high school or college”*
- ▶ *“I wouldn’t have gotten pregnant or gotten her pregnant”*
- ▶ *“I wouldn’t have been fired from my job”*

Observations

- ▶ This is a lesson about a man who should have listened to mama and daddy
- ▶ His life had a bad ending because he didn't listen
- ▶ I am talking about

Samson



Samson

- ▶ Most of us know that Samson in the Bible was a Judge among the Israelite people
 - ▶ A Judge's main purpose during their time in Israel was to deliver Israel out of the bondage of its enemies (the Philistines at this time)
 - ▶ Samson was known to be the strongest man that lived, physically, having been anointed by God with extraordinary strength
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What About Samson?

- ▶ When he was born, he would become a Nazarite, which was a special voluntary covenant relationship with God (abstain from wine and not cut his hair among other things)
- ▶ God supplied him with extraordinary strength through his *hair*

Through the strength in his *hair*, he killed a lion with his bare hands

Through the strength in his *hair*, he caught 300 foxes, tied their tails together, and set them on fire to burn up the cornfields of the Philistines

Through the strength in his *hair*, he killed 1000 Philistines with the jawbone of a donkey

His Super Strength Was Not In His Muscles But His Hair !

But in Judges 16:19–21

- ▶ His hair has been cut
- ▶ His eyes have been gouged out
- ▶ He's bound in chains, in prison, walking behind a grinding mill all day long
- ▶ Debilitated, Defeated, Incapacitated



How did a strong man who lived in a covenant relationship with God find himself in this position?

Observations

- ▶ You can try to blame Delilah (some do)
 - “If Samson hadn’t gotten involved with her he’d never lost his hair!”
 - “He’d never lost his strength and been taken captive by the Philistines!”
 - “He’d never lost his eyesight!”
- ▶ But the more you study this story you realize that *it was Samson’s fault that he lost his eyes, his hair , his strength , and ends up grinding with no sight at a mill all day long*
- ▶ *If Samson had listened to his mama and daddy, he more than likely would have not been involved with Delilah*

Delilah Was Not the ONLY Woman That Had Been Involved With Samson!

- ▶ In Judges 14, Samson had married a woman from Timnath, a marriage that lasted only one week
- ▶ In Judges 16:1–3 Samson got involved with a prostitute
- ▶ Then in Judges 16:4 he gets involved with Delilah who tried to destroy him several times

Notice that all of the women Samson associated with were BAD WOMEN!

(Eye candy, Curves in the correct places, Easy on the eyes)

But if he had listened to mama and daddy he would have avoided them!

Understand This:

***A PERSON'S PHYSICAL
ATTRIBUTES HAVE
LITERALLY NOTHING TO DO
WITH THEIR SPIRITUAL
CONDUCT!***

- ▶ Samson's biggest problem was that he let LUST get the better part of his judgment, James 1:13-14

The Story

- ▶ In Judges 14, 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, an enemy of the children of God
This woman did not know Samson's God
This woman did not know of Samson's religious nation, God's chosen people, nor of his covenant with his God (a Nazarite)
- ▶ Did you know that Christians are different, like Samson? 1 Peter 2:9

When Samson Informs his parents of his intentions both of them ask him:

“Can’t you find an available Israelite?”

“Can’t you find a woman in our religious nation?”

“Can’t you find a woman that loves your God?”

“Can’t you find a proselyte?”

Observations

- ▶ All of these are spiritual questions that Samson's parents wanted to know, not secular issues
- ▶ Samson's parents weren't just satisfied with their child dating somebody or that his love interest had a good job
- ▶ They did not want their son to marry someone that was not committed to the family of God
- ▶ Parents need to pose the right questions to their grown children who are thinking about marriage
- ▶ Your love interest should show love for your God first, and you second
- ▶ That love for God should be independent of you
John 14:15

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

