



LIFE LESSONS FROM THE LADIES

Why, Why, Why, DELILAH: Lesson 16

I don't really know why I feel so compelled to write about Delilah, who was such a "naughty" woman in the Bible. I tried NOT to write her story, but the Lord kept bringing me back to her. So, let me introduce to you, the woman whose name has now become synonymous with a voluptuous and treacherous woman. Delilah is seen as a prime example of deceit and betrayal to the utmost degree. She is the only woman actually named in the story of Samson. Her name means "faithless one" or "to flirt." Hmmmm... seems fitting. I wonder how many of you remember the song "Delilah" recorded by Tom Jones in December 1967. (I happened to be 6 years old at the time and somehow got myself signed up to be in his fan club!) The words are pretty fitting, I must say. Samson may have been singing it when he realized what Delilah had done. Why, why, why, Delilah?!

First Day

1. Before we meet Delilah, we need to get some background on Samson, the man she betrayed. Please read Judges 13:1-24 and summarize the story of Samson's birth. List some of the important facts, such as ... Who were his parents? Who appeared to them? What is the Nazarite vow? What would be his purpose? (Read Numbers 6:1-8 to understand the requirements of the vow more specifically.)

Higgs wrote, “For a guy who was supposed to avoid dead bodies, Samson surely created a ton of them. His stunts were legendary, his exploits seemed to be larger than life!” It would take something very clever to bring down this giant of a man. But people knew his weak spot and that it would take a woman to accomplish this task. ☹

8. Read Judges 13:25, 14:6,19, and 15:14. What phrase is repeated in these verses?

9. Let’s read up to the part right before he meets Delilah. Read Judges 16:1-3. What did he “see” there?

Samson obviously loves women. Samson was courageous before man, but weak before women. I know we’re studying Delilah, but let’s not miss all the fabulous lessons we can learn from the life of Samson. I remember reading a comparison or contrast between Samson and David. One could slay a giant because he had slayed his inner passions. One could slay a lion but was incapable of slaying his own lust. I smell trouble ahead.

Memory Verse of the Week: “These things the Lord hates, yes, seven are an abomination to Him: A proud look, a lying tongue, hands that shed innocent blood, a heart that devises wicked plans, feet that are swift in running to evil, a false witness who speaks lies, and one who sows discord among brethren.” Proverbs 6:16-19

Second Day

I know your verse is long, but it’s worth learning! Work on your memory verse.

1. Please read Judges 16:4-31. Who did he fall in love with? Where was she from?

It’s not actually known whether Delilah was Hebrew or a Philistine. We know she was from the Valley of Sorek, which is between Israelite and Philistine lands, yet her name was Hebrew, which doesn’t really prove anything, since many pagans took Hebrew names. We don’t even know who her allegiance was to. We really don’t know anything about her past, her nationality, or her family. Who was this woman?

2. What was Delilah asked to do by the lords of the Philistines?

3. Do you think she loved Samson? Does Scripture tell us?
4. Summarize the story briefly (verses 4-17). How many times did she try to trick him before Samson told the truth?
5. What FINALLY made Samson tell her the truth about the source of his strength?

You would think Samson would have learned from his mistakes. Back in Judges 14:16-17, his wife pretty much used the same whiny tactics on him, which ended in disaster! Why didn't he see this coming? Was he so blinded by his love, or lust, for her that he just gave in? He waffled before because of that wife's continual nagging, and Delilah does the exact same thing. I know Samson enjoyed playing riddles and games, but really? As I read the story, it makes me crazy!!! Why does Samson give in?? Calm down, Kelly, calm down.

6. In verse 17, Samson "tells her all his heart." How do you think Delilah knows that this time he's telling the truth?
7. Summarize verses 18-20. Did she seem remorseful?

Betraying Samson wasn't her idea, but Delilah obviously wanted to "follow the money." It doesn't appear that she hesitated a second after they asked her to commit this evil deed. Eleven hundred shekels of silver was 34 pounds of silver, multiplied by however many men there were. She could live like a queen forever! The Philistine leaders knew she could seduce him, and she did it well. They wanted to humiliate Samson publicly and kill him. He was much too dangerous to leave alive.

Liz Curtis Higgs wrote, "How did she know he told her everything? A woman's intuition perhaps? The agonized expression on Samson's face? Or maybe because it made sense. Hair that had never been cut would be exceedingly long and most unusual, at any time in history. Think Rapunzel. Lady Godiva. Samson's floor-length tresses would have been the cause of much conjecture. Of course! Cut his hair, and his power is history. Delilah didn't feel sorry for him. She felt rich."

8. "If you really loved me" was the phrase she used on Samson. This seems to be a common way spouses manipulate each other into getting their way. Have you, or do you, ever use it? Is there a right way or time, and a wrong way and time, to use this phrase?

9. Delilah obviously was a "whiner." Proverbs 21:9, 19; 19:13; and 27:15-16. What do these verses say about a "contentious" wife? How does nagging fit into this?

The technical definition of nagging is "constantly and persistently harassing someone to do something." Don't get nagging confused with legitimate conversation or addressing issues that need to be addressed. I think the motive of the heart has a lot to do with deciding if you're communicating or nagging. Are you trying to manipulate or get your way? Nagging doesn't usually give us the results we want, and it never builds relationships. It tears them apart and usually creates great tension.

10. How can constant nagging, prodding, or whining affect the person receiving it?

11. Ok, so you knew the question was coming. Do you nag your husband, your kids, your friends, or even your boss? Pray about this before you answer!

12. After Samson spills the beans, she lulls him to sleep. (I don't even want to think about how she did that.) Samson obviously trusts her, resting his head on her lap. Read Proverbs 31:11. Write your thoughts.

13. Does your husband trust you? Do your friends? Do they believe you have their best at heart because you have shown yourself to be trustworthy and a woman of your word?

That's it for today. Such an interesting story. We can learn a lot about how NOT to be from both Samson and Delilah, but also the importance of guarding our heart against sin and temptation. Holy Spirit, please open our minds and hearts to ALL YOU want us to see!

Third Day

Work on your verse!

Let's talk about Samson's hair for a moment. Did his hair actually make him strong? Samson's hair seemed to be his human source of power, but it's clear from the final event, which we will read about today, that God was the true, ultimate source of his strength. His uncut hair was simply a sign that he was obeying God's command to be a Nazarite. When he cut it, God "departed from him" because of his disobedience. God was the source of strength for all the judges, as well as anything we do!

1. Today let's read what happened as a result of Delilah's betrayal. Read Judges 16:20-31. Summarize the story in your own words. (Do you think Delilah was in the audience?)

2. How did God still use Samson despite his disobedience? Read Hebrews 11:32-34. Why do you think Samson is still listed in the Hebrews "heroes of faith" chapter? What are your thoughts on this?

Samson was a traitor to Himself and more importantly, to God. He betrayed his vow to God for a physical desire he had. The weakness of his heart is more astonishing than the strength of his body! God had gifted this man with tremendous strength and power, yet Samson abused his power rather than using it for God's glory. But was still considered a hero of faith? Even with all his failures and shortcomings, Samson had a heart for God. Delilah seemed to only have a heart for herself. And money. The Lord used her, though, to birth humility in Samson and deliver death to many Philistines.

3. What gifts has God given you? Are you using them for His glory, or neglecting them, or abusing them? (How is it possible for us to "abuse" the giftings He's given us?)

8. Delilah's motive was strictly for monetary gain. Before we judge her too harshly, let me ask you this. Have you ever done anything for monetary gain without, or before, consulting the Lord? Has money ever been the motive for anything you've done? But on the other hand, it's not wrong to make financial moves to "get ahead." How do we discern when it's right or wrong?

9. Read Ecclesiastes 7:12. What wise counsel can you glean from this? How can you apply it to your own life?

10. What do these verses say about riches?
 - a. Proverbs 27:24
 - b. Proverbs 11:4
 - c. Proverbs 30:7-9
 - d. Psalm 49:6-9
 - e. Psalm 62:10
 - f. 1 Timothy 3:3
 - g. 1 Timothy 6:9-10
 - h. 1 Timothy 6:17-19

11. What kind of riches should we be seeking after, first and foremost?
 - a. Proverbs 3:13-18
 - b. Proverbs 22:4
 - c. Proverbs 8:17-19
 - d. Ephesians 1:18
 - e. Ephesians 3:8

I had you looking up a lot of verses today, but I hope it was fruitful for you. I know I constantly need to be reminded of the basics, such as "Seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things will be added unto you." (Matthew 6:33) How quickly we get sidetracked! See you tomorrow!

Fourth Day

Work on your memory verse. Can you tell why I chose it?

1. Most scholars can't help but to make the comparison between Delilah and Judas. Read the following verses and note the similarities, as well as the differences. Matthew 26:14-16, Mark 14:43-45, and Luke 6:13-16.

2. Read Matthew 27:3-5. How did Judas react after the horrible thing he did? Do we know what Delilah did?

3. If Delilah repented, would she have been forgiven? Read 1 John 1:8-9. How do we know?

4. We need to guard our hearts from judging others for committing “that” sin (whatever that is) when we might be committing sin ourselves. What does Matthew 7:1-5 say about this?

5. Read 1 Corinthians 3:18 and Jeremiah 17:9. These verses warn us about “self-deception.” What do you think that means?

6. We all have “blind spots” in our lives; things we can’t see but others can. It may be actions, attitudes, perspectives or prejudices, but we all have them. Sometimes we also just don’t “want” to see them. Either way, they can be dangerous. How can our eyes be opened to our blind spots? What part does the Word play in this? How can our friends and families help? What about spiritual leaders?

7. Let’s take some time and actually ask the Holy Spirit to open our eyes in these specific categories:

7. Think of someone that needs encouraging today. Maybe someone who feels like the world, their family, or just "life" is beating them down. How can you lift them up today?

Interesting study on Delilah. As hard as I tried, I couldn't find really anything nice to say about her. The only thing I can say is that I hope she was a Philistine and didn't know better. Also, she has served as a great warning to us for many things. Don't let greed cloud our judgement or direct our decisions. Don't allow ourselves to be manipulated or flattered by monetary gain. Don't lie or devise evil plans. Don't allow ourselves to be seduced by our own lusts. And the things we learned from Samson are endless. But Samson did seem to repent and allow God to use him once more. Another great example that God's people are anything but perfect. But if we repent and turn from our ways, He will forgive us and continue to use us for His glory!

8. Let's end today by reading Micah 7:18-19. How do these verses encourage you?