

OVERCOMING DELILAH

There should not be a moment in our walk with God where we are deprived of His divine influence. A life consecrated unto God is a life where His presence will always dwell.

KEY POINTS

- ❖ In Judges 13, an angel of the Lord revealed to a barren mother that she would have a son and he would be a Nazarite (specially consecrated to God).
- ❖ The Lord blessed this son, Sampson, and the Spirit of the Lord began to move him at times (13:24-25).
- ❖ Physically, Sampson was miraculously strong, but he had a weakness: forbidden Gentile women.
- ❖ He insisted on marrying a Philistine woman. He slept with a Philistine prostitute. And then there was *Delilah*.
- ❖ The Bible says Samson loved Delilah. And the Philistines hated Samson (see Jud. 14, 15).
- ❖ So...each Philistine leader promised Delilah 1100 pieces of silver to "Entice [Samson], and find out where his great strength *lies*, and by what *means* we may overpower him, that we may bind him to afflict him..." (16:5).
- ❖ So Delilah said to Samson, "Please tell me where your great strength *lies*, and with what you may be bound to afflict you" (v. 6).
- ❖ She didn't "beat around the bush" or pretend. The information she wanted was what she asked for.
- ❖ He responded with the following deceitful answers:
 1. "If they bind me with seven fresh bowstrings, not yet dried, then I shall become weak, and be like any other man" (v. 7).
 2. "If they bind me securely with new ropes that have never been used..." (v. 11).
 3. "If you weave the seven locks of my head into the web of the loom..."(v. 13).
- ❖ After each answer, the Philistines attacked him and he had to use his strength to break free.
- ❖ *Three times....* But he loved her.
- ❖ Finally he "told her all his heart. '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'" (v. 17).
- ❖ So she cut his hair. And again the Philistines came.
- ❖ Samson awoke and said, "'I will go out as before, at other times, and shake myself free!' But he did not know that the Lord had departed from him" (v. 20).
- ❖ He was blinded, bound and enslaved; used for the praise of their gods and for their entertainment (v. 21-27). He killed himself in their temple (v. 28-30).

KEY SCRIPTURE: Judges 16:4-22

- ❖ Leviticus 6:12-13 (NKJV) decrees that ...the fire on the altar shall be kept burning on it; it shall not be put out. ...¹³A fire shall always be burning on the altar; it shall never go out.
- ❖ As children of God we must present our bodies as living sacrifices (Romans 12:1); our hearts must be altars where the fire never goes out. We cannot afford to not have the presence of God with us.
- ❖ We can be doing things for God but God's presence is not with us (Matthew 7:22-24).
- ❖ We need to check ourselves: Is the Spirit of the Lord active in my life? Am I bearing fruit? Is there righteousness, peace and joy in me?
- ❖ Disobedience and rebellion will separate us from the presence of the Lord (cf. Israel in 1 Samuel 4:21 and Saul in 1 Sam. 16:14).
- ❖ When we turn your eyes off Jesus, we open ourselves to the enemy's devices. He has come to kill, steal and destroy (John 10:10).
- ❖ We lose sight of others, stepping on and over people to meet our needs and desires. We lose sight of ourselves, of who we are and our main objectives or purpose in life.
- ❖ But believers with the abiding presence and Spirit of God intimidate the enemy.
- ❖ When you make sure God's Spirit is abiding in you, God's presence is always with you, you will not be deceived or defeated.

DISCUSSION/REFLECTION TOOLS

1. Can you think of a situation where you asked yourself, "How in the world did I get here?" or "How could I have been so stupid?" or "Why didn't I see that coming?" Describe (as you feel comfortable) what led up to that. What did you learn from it?
2. How can we recognize and combat "Delilah"? Share life lessons supported by scriptures.
3. Is there a possible "Delilah" distancing you from God? Ask God (and others) for help as the group prays now for each other.

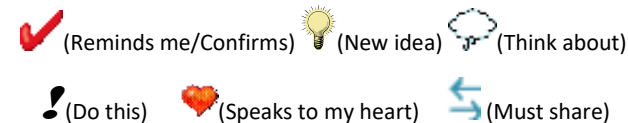
Prayer Time

Jesus, Your word says You will draw near to me if I draw near to You. Please help me to resist all temptations and see them flee! Amen.

WEEK OF SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2018

NOTES

Meditate as you read through/listen to this week's message. If it helps, use symbols for your notes.



PRAYER NEEDS/THANKSGIVINGS

Go deeper with your Life Group family.
 CONNECT-REFLECT-DISSECT THE WORD
 Your Life Group ~ Your Lifeline

Start-up: How much do you trust/depend on a GPS? Has it saved you time and/or confusion? Has a GPS ever led you astray?