**PAYING A HIGH PRICE FOR LIVING LOW**

**Judges 16:16-22**

[**16**](https://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/Judges-16-16/) **And it came to pass, when she pressed him daily with her words, and urged him, *so* that his soul was vexed unto death;**

[**17**](https://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/Judges-16-17/) **That he told her all his heart, and said unto her, There hath not come a razor upon mine head; for I *have been* a Nazarite unto God from my mother's womb: if I be shaven, then my strength will go from me, and I shall become weak, and be like any *other* man.**

[**18**](https://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/Judges-16-18/) **And when Delilah saw that he had told her all his heart, she sent and called for the lords of the Philistines, saying, Come up this once, for he hath shewed me all his heart. Then the lords of the Philistines came up unto her, and brought money in their hand.**

[**19**](https://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/Judges-16-19/) **And she made him sleep upon her knees; and she called for a man, and she caused him to shave off the seven locks of his head; and she began to afflict him, and his strength went from him.**

[**20**](https://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/Judges-16-20/) **And she said, The Philistines *be* upon thee, Samson. And he awoke out of his sleep, and said, I will go out as at other times before, and shake myself. And he wist not that the LORD was departed from him.**

[**21**](https://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/Judges-16-21/) **But the Philistines took him, and put out his eyes, and brought him down to Gaza, and bound him with fetters of brass; and he did grind in the prison house.**

[**22**](https://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/Judges-16-22/) **Howbeit the hair of his head began to grow again after he was shaven.**

**INTRO:**

**\*\*Samson was the strongest man in the world but only when “the spirit of the Lord came mightily upon him. . .”**

**1. Samson, the strongest man in the world, became a Sinner Without Any Sense.**

**Judges 16:20 And he wist (knew) not that the LORD was departed from him.**

**\*\*Due to sin, he lost the Lord and didn’t even realize it at first! So many think the Lord is with them, but He is not with them because of the sin in their life!**

**2. Samson, the strongest man in the world, became a Slave Without Any Sight.**

**Judges 16:21** [**21**](https://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/Judges-16-21/) **But the Philistines took him, and put out his eyes, and brought him down to Gaza, and bound him with fetters of brass; and he did grind in the prison house.**

**\*\*Once you are in captivity, Satan will blind you to the things of God and make you a slave to him!**

**3. Samson, the strongest man in the world, became a Sport Without Any Strength.**

**Judges 16:25 And it came to pass, when their hearts were merry, that they said, Call for Samson, that he may make us sport. And they called for Samson out of the prison house; and he made them sport:**

**\*\*Once Satan captures you he will mock you and make a game out you and your life and rig it so that you lose every time just so he can laugh at you!**

**Illustration: Benjamin Franklin bought a whistle at age seven and played it with delight until he found out he paid four times too much for it. After that he would not play it anymore. Later in life he would see people giving up family and friends just to be politically popular or gain wealth, and he would say, “They paid too much for heir whistle!”**

**\*\*Samson paid too much for his whistle! He gave up his Sight and his Strength and became a Godless Man, a Grinding Man, and a Game Mockery all for a devilish, lying, money hungry, deceiving, whistling hussy.**

**\*\*Samson paid a high price for living low!**

**\*\*This message is needed because there may be some here who are living below their means spiritually. If so, let’s look at this story closer and see how God offers a solution for us who have Paid a High Price for Living Low.**

**I. LOOK AT THE POTENTIAL OF SAMSON'S LIFE**

 **A. His Arrival Was Extraordinary**

 **1. God made sure Samson was Born**

**Judges 13:3 And the angel of the LORD appeared unto the woman, and said unto her, Behold now, thou *art* barren, and bearest not: but thou shalt conceive, and bear a son.**

 **2. God made sure Samson was Blessed**

**Judges 13:24-25 [24](https://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/Judges-13-24/%22%20%5Co%20%22Judges%2013%3A24%20KJV%20verse%20detail)And the woman bare a son, and called his name Samson: and the child grew, and the LORD blessed him.** [**25**](https://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/Judges-13-25/) **And the Spirit of the LORD began to move him at times in the camp of Dan . . .**

**\*\*You’ve been born because God wanted you to be born!**

**\*\*You’ve been blessed because God wanted you to be blessed!**

 **B. His Accomplishments Were Extraordinary**

**\*\*Samson is remembered as the strong man of the Bible.**

 **1. Notice the Effortlessness**

 **a. We see his effortless Abilities**

**\*\*He kills a lion with no problem in Judges 14:5.**

 **b. We see his effortless Achievements**

**\*\*He caught 300 foxes, set their tails on fire, and turned them loose in the Philistines corn fields in Judges 15:4.**

**\*\*He then killed those Philistines in Judges 15:8**

 **2. Notice the Enemies**

 **a. He killed around Thirty Philistines (Judges 14:19)**

 **b. He killed a Thousand Philistines (Judges 15:15)**

 **3. Notice the Evidence**

**\*\*Judges 14:19 and Judges 15:14 both say that the “spirit of the Lord” came upon him!**

 **a. God’s Spirit Gave Him Strength!**

 **b. God’s Spirit Gave Him Skills!**

**\*\*Samson was nothing without the spirit of the Lord being upon him, and neither will we be anything without the spirit of the Lord upon us and our lives.**

**\*\*The spirit of the Lord will not reside upon you if you are living in low places!**

**II. LOOK AT THE PROBLEMS OF SAMSON'S LIFE**

 **A. He Faced Problematic Adversaries**

 **1. His Enemies were Heathens!**

 **2. His Enemy was Himself!**

**Illustration: One man said, “We have met the enemy, and he is US!!” Are we not our own worst enemy sometimes. We too often work against ourselves. Samson most certainly did!**

 **a. Samson had a weakness in Lusting.**

 **b. Samson had a weakness in Listening.**

 **B. He Faced Pitiful Attractions**

 **1. He gave in to being attracted to a Harlot.**

**Judges 16:1 Then went Samson to Gaza, and saw there an harlot, and went in unto her.**

 **2. He gave in to being attracted to a Hussy.**

**Judges 16:4 And it came to pass afterward, that he loved a woman in the valley of Sorek, whose name *was* Delilah.**

**\*\*Delilah means weak, or weak in morals! It’s ironic to me that the strongest man in muscles was overtaken by the weakest woman in morals!**

**\*\*You can go lie down in the low life of sin all you want and justify yourself and even convince yourself that you’re doing nothing wrong, but there’s a high price to low living friend!**

 **C. He Favored Pathetic Activities**

**1. He gave up his Testimony for Delilah’s Slimy Seductions.**

**2. He gave up his Truth for Delilah’s Sad Stories.**

**Proverbs 6:27 Can a man take fire in his bosom, and his clothes not be burned?**

**\*\*Just keep jumping in the bed of sin with a little social drink and a little wild fire and you’ll wake up burnt!**

**III. LOOK AT THE PRODUCT OF SAMSON'S LIFE**

**\*\*Because of his sinfulness and his failure to control his fleshly desires and impulses, Samson paid a terrific price.**

 **A. Look at the Losses**

 **1. He Lost His Vision – He is Blind!**

 **a. He Can’t See His Friend**

 **b. He Can’t See His Foe**

**\*\*Once you get blinded by sin, you cannot see what the Savior wants to do for you nor what Satan wants to do to you!**

 **2. He Lost His Vitality – He is Bound!**

**\*\*Vitality means physical strength or the power to live and grow! The quality of life was over for Samson and he knew it!**

**\*\*Sin and Satan will take the quality of life from you! There’s no real meaning to life if you don’t have Jesus! When you lose all spiritual strength to worship, to pray, or experience God you cannot enjoy the word of God nor his people!**

 **3. He Lost His Victory – He is Beat!**

**\*\*Samson’s job as a slave was to grind corn which was the work the women did. It was a way to humiliate him even more.**

 **a. We see he is Defeated.**

 **b. We see he is Demoralized**

**\*\*You can be the strongest Christian in the world spiritually, but sin can weaken you and defeat you and demoralize you!**

 **B. Look at the Lessons**

 **1. Look at what happened in his Predicament**

 **a. We see Repentance**

 **b. We see Restoration**

 **2. Look at what happened in his Prayer**

**Judges 16:28 And Samson called unto the LORD, and said, O Lord GOD, remember me, I pray thee, and strengthen me, I pray thee, only this once, O God, that I may be at once avenged of the Philistines for my two eyes.**

 **a. He prayed – Lord Remember Me!**

**\*\*Oh how people need to come back to God and cry out, “Lord Remember Me!”**

 **b. He prayed – Lord Re-strengthen Me!**

**\*\*You could regain Spiritual strength and be restored if you would only repent!**

 **c. He prayed – Lord Redeem Me!**

**Judges 16:30 And Samson said, Let me die with the Philistines.**

**\*\*Samson knew that the only way he could be redeemed and get back his sight and his strength in the Lord was to die!**

**\*\*The only way to get back your Spiritual Sight and Spiritual Strength is to ask God to cause your old fleshy nature and ways to die!**

**\*\*Samson wanted his Sightlessness, his Slavery, and his Sins to die so he asked God to let him die so that he could be redeemed!**

**CLOSE**

**\*\*Samson got out of God’s will! There’s a lesson there that we must ask God to keep us in His will or otherwise we will be just in His way!**

**\*\*Have you let your life get out of the will of the Lord?**

**\*\*Have you been living low? Are you paying a high price for living low? Are you worried and afraid of the price that is coming for living low?**

**\*\*The way of a transgressor is hard!**

**\*\*Get out of the low living places of this world and live high on the joy of the Lord!**

**\*\*Samson was not the first or the last Spiritually Strengthened man to lose so much because of his sins. However, you and I do not have to be the next one. Stay where your source of strength is and away from the world, the wicked, and the weak.**