

# AND HE WIST NOT

## JUDGES 16

Text: Judges 16:20

(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."

Introduction:

Ignorance is a terrible thing. Often in life, if you are ignorant of what is going on around you, it can damage or destroy you. Notice how Samson's ignorance enslaved him.

### **1. HE DIDN'T KNOW THE DESTRUCTIVENESS OF HIS SIN**

A. His first escape after immorality brought a false sense of security (v. 1-3)

(Judges 16:1-3) "Then went Samson to Gaza, and saw there an harlot, and went in unto her. {2} And it was told the Gazites, saying, Samson is come hither. And they compassed him in, and laid wait for him all night

in the gate of the city, and were quiet all the night, saying, In the morning, when it is day, we shall kill him. {3} And Samson lay till midnight, and arose at midnight, and took the doors of the gate of the city, and the two posts, and went away with them, bar and all, and put them upon his shoulders, and carried them up to the top of an hill that is before Hebron."

B. His next immorality led to enslavement.  
(v. 4-21)

(Judges 16:4-21) "And it came to pass afterward, that he loved a woman in the valley of Sorek, whose name was Delilah. {5} And the lords of the Philistines came up unto her, and said unto her, Entice him, and see wherein his great strength lieth, and by what means we may prevail against him, that we may bind him to afflict him: and we will give thee every one of us eleven hundred pieces of silver. {6} And Delilah said to Samson, Tell me, I pray thee, wherein thy great strength lieth, and wherewith thou mightest be bound to afflict thee. {7} And Samson said unto her, If they bind me with seven green withs that were never dried, then shall I be weak, and be as another man. {8} Then the lords of the Philistines brought up to her seven green withs which had not been dried, and she bound him with them. {9} Now there were men lying in wait, abiding with her in the chamber. And she said unto him, The Philistines be upon thee, Samson. And he brake the withs, as a thread of tow is broken when it

toucheth the fire. So his strength was not known. {10} And Delilah said unto Samson, Behold, thou hast mocked me, and told me lies: now tell me, I pray thee, wherewith thou mightest be bound. {11} And he said unto her, If they bind me fast with new ropes that never were occupied, then shall I be weak, and be as another man. {12} Delilah therefore took new ropes, and bound him therewith, and said unto him, The Philistines be upon thee, Samson. And there were liers in wait abiding in the chamber. And he brake them from off his arms like a thread. {13} And Delilah said unto Samson, Hitherto thou hast mocked me, and told me lies: tell me wherewith thou mightest be bound. And he said unto her, If thou weavest the seven locks of my head with the web. {14} And she fastened it with the pin, and said unto him, The Philistines be upon thee, Samson. And he awaked out of his sleep, and went away with the pin of the beam, and with the web. {15} And she said unto him, How canst thou say, I love thee, when thine heart is not with me? thou hast mocked me these three times, and hast not told me wherein thy great strength lieth. {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} 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} 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 showed me all his heart. Then the lords of the Philistines came up unto her, and brought money in their hand. {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} 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} 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."

C. Be sure your sin will find you out.

(Numbers 32:23) "But if ye will not do so, behold, ye have sinned against the LORD: and be sure your sin will find you out."

## **2. HE DIDN'T KNOW THE DESIGN OF HIS ENEMY**

A. The Philistines made a league with Delilah (v. 5)

(Judges 16:5) "And the lords of the Philistines came up unto her, and said unto her, Entice him, and see

wherein his great strength lieth, and by what means we may prevail against him, that we may bind him to afflict him: and we will give thee every one of us eleven hundred pieces of silver."

B. Satan has a design against every Christian.

(1 Peter 5:8) "Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:"

### **3. HE DIDN'T KNOW THE DECEIT OF HIS FRIEND**

A. He thought Delilah loved him (v. 4)

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

B. Delilah really loved money more (v. 5)

(Judges 16:5) "And the lords of the Philistines came up unto her, and said unto her, Entice him, and see wherein his great strength lieth, and by what means we may prevail against him, that we may bind him to afflict him: and we will give thee every one of us eleven hundred pieces of silver."

C. Cheap love means cheap relationships

(Proverbs 5:3-5) "For the lips of a strange woman drop as an honeycomb, and her mouth is smoother than oil: {4} But her end is bitter as wormwood, sharp as a twoedged sword. {5} Her feet go down to death; her steps take hold on hell."

(Proverbs 6:24-35) "To keep thee from the evil woman, from the flattery of the tongue of a strange woman. {25} Lust not after her beauty in thine heart; neither let her take thee with her eyelids. {26} For by means of a whorish woman a man is brought to a piece of bread: and the adulteress will hunt for the precious life. {27} Can a man take fire in his bosom, and his clothes not be burned? {28} Can one go upon hot coals, and his feet not be burned? {29} So he that goeth in to his neighbour's wife; whosoever toucheth her shall not be innocent. {30} Men do not despise a thief, if he steal to satisfy his soul when he is hungry; {31} But if he be found, he shall restore sevenfold; he shall give all the substance of his house. {32} But whoso committeth adultery with a woman lacketh understanding: he that doeth it destroyeth his own soul. {33} A wound and dishonour shall he get; and his reproach shall not be wiped away. {34} For jealousy is the rage of a man: therefore he will not spare in the day of vengeance. {35} He will not regard any ransom; neither will he rest content, though thou givest many gifts."

## 4. HE DIDN'T KNOW THE DEPARTURE OF HIS GOD

A. At Samson's last attack he didn't know God had departed from him.

(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."

B. Even God's patience can be exhausted

(Numbers 32:23) "But if ye will not do so, behold, ye have sinned against the LORD: and be sure your sin will find you out."

Close:

Fortunately, Samson returned to the Lord and was forgiven. His hair grew (v. 22) and Samson again gained a great victory for God and His people.

(Judges 16:22) "Howbeit the hair of his head began to grow again after he was shaven."

(Judges 16:29-30) "And Samson took hold of the two middle pillars upon which the house stood, and on

which it was borne up, of the one with his right hand, and of the other with his left. {30} And Samson said, Let me die with the Philistines. And he bowed himself with all his might; and the house fell upon the lords, and upon all the people that were therein. So the dead which he slew at his death were more than they which he slew in his life."