



The Consequences of Lying to Yourself (Part 4)

Date: May 2, 2021

Text: Judges 16:1–31 (NIV)

Statement: In this sermon we will learn:

1. Lying to yourself leads to **repeated romantic traps**
2. Lying to yourself leads to **multiple enemies**
3. Lying to yourself leads to **manipulation by others**
4. Lying leads to **public and private humiliation**
5. There is **redemptive potential** if you repent

Statement: If you wait too long to change some things in your life, you will suffer painful consequences. The consequences of Samson's choices left him with permanent losses that **he never recovered from**. His life became a horror movie in slow motion.

I. The Traps Described

1. He Was Trapped by a Prostitute

- 1 One day Samson went to Gaza, **where he saw a prostitute. He went in to spend the night with her.** 2 The people of Gaza were told, "Samson is here!" So they surrounded the place and lay in wait for him all night at the city gate. They made no move during the night, saying, "At dawn we'll kill him."
- 3 But **Samson lay there only until the middle of the night.** Then **he got up** and took hold of the doors of the city gate, **together with the two posts, and tore them loose, bar and all.** He lifted them to his shoulders and carried them to the top of the hill that faces Hebron.

Question: Why did he carry the heavy gates to the top of the hill? I guess he was sending a signal, don't follow me.

2. He was Trapped by Delilah (What Is Your Traps Name?)

- 4 Sometime later, he fell in love with a woman in the Valley of Sorek whose name was Delilah.

3. He was Trapped by a Hidden Money Plot and Did Not Know It

- 5 The rulers of the Philistines went to her and said, "See if you can lure him into showing you the secret of his great strength and how we can overpower him so we may tie him up and subdue him. **Each one of us will give you eleven hundred shekels of silver.**"

Question: Why didn't they just go in and arrest him? (Remember the gates, 16:3)

4. He Was Trapped by Delilah's Manipulation

- 6 So Delilah said to Samson, "Tell me the secret of your great strength and how you can be tied up and subdued." 7 Samson answered her, "If anyone ties me with seven fresh bowstrings that have not been dried, I'll become as weak as any other man." 8 Then the rulers of the Philistines brought her seven fresh bowstrings that had not been dried, and she tied him with them. 9 With men hidden in the room, she called to him, "Samson, the Philistines are upon you!" But he snapped the bowstrings as

- easily as a piece of string snaps when it comes close to a flame. So the secret of his strength was not discovered.
- 10 Then Delilah said to Samson, “You have made a fool of me; you lied to me. Come now, tell me how you can be tied.” 11 He said, “If anyone ties me securely with new ropes that have never been used, I’ll become as weak as any other man.”

5. He Was Trapped In Foolish Verbal Exchanges (She kept picking verbal fights)

- 12 So **Delilah took new ropes and tied him with them.** Then, with men hidden in the room, she called to him, “Samson, the Philistines are upon you!” But he snapped the ropes off his arms as if they were threads. 13 Delilah then said to Samson, “All this time you have been making a fool of me and lying to me. **Tell me how you can be tied.**” He replied, “If you weave the seven braids of my head into the fabric on the loom and tighten it with the pin, I’ll become as weak as any other man.” So while he was sleeping, Delilah took the seven braids of his head, wove them into the fabric 14 and tightened it with the pin.
- **Again she called to him, “Samson, the Philistines are upon you!” He awoke from his sleep and pulled up the pin and the loom,** with the fabric. 15 Then she said to him, “How can you say, ‘I love you, ’when you won’t confide in me? **This is the third time** you have made a fool of me and haven’t told me the secret of your great strength.” 16 With such nagging she prodded him day after day until he was sick to death of it.
- 17 **So he told her everything.** “No razor has ever been used on my head,” he said, “because **I have been a Nazirite dedicated to God from my mother’s womb. If my head were shaved, my strength would leave me, and I would become as weak as any other man.**” 18 When Delilah saw that he had told her everything, she sent word to the rulers of the Philistines, “Come back once more; he has told me everything.” So the rulers of the Philistines returned with the silver in their hands. **19 After putting him to sleep on her lap, she called for someone to shave off the seven braids of his hair, and so began to subdue him. And his strength left him.**

Summary: Samson lost his power when he violated his main covenant with God from birth. He struggled all of his life. But, this was a total surrender to a romantic moment with a carnal person he should have recognized.

Conclusion:

II. The Final Consequences Described

20 Then she called, “Samson, the Philistines are upon you!” He awoke from his sleep and thought, “I’ll go out as before and shake myself free.” But **he did not know that the Lord had left him.**

1. The Private Humiliation Consequence (Every day he was alone walking in a circle)

- 21 Then the Philistines seized him, gouged out his eyes and took him down to Gaza. Binding him with bronze shackles, they set him to grinding grain in the prison. **22 But the hair on his head began to grow again after it had been shaved.**

2. The Public Humiliation Consequence

- 23 Now the rulers of the Philistines assembled to offer a great sacrifice to Dagon their god and to celebrate, saying, “Our god has delivered Samson, our enemy, into our hands.” 24 When the people saw him, they praised their god, saying, “Our god has delivered our enemy into our hands, the one who laid waste our land and multiplied our slain.”
- 25 While they were in high spirits, they shouted, “**Bring out Samson to entertain us.**” So they called Samson out of the prison, and he performed for them. When they stood him among the pillars, 26 Samson said to the servant who held his hand, “Put me where I can feel the pillars that support the temple, so that I may lean against them.” 27 Now the temple was crowded with men and women; all the rulers of the Philistines were there, and on the roof were about three thousand men and women watching Samson perform. 28 Then Samson prayed to the Lord, “Sovereign Lord, remember me. Please, God, strengthen me just once more, and let me with one blow get revenge on the Philistines for my two eyes.”

3. The Tremendous Loss of Life Consequence

- 29 Then Samson reached toward the two central pillars on which the temple stood. Bracing himself against them, his right hand on the one and his left hand on the other, 30 Samson said, “Let me die with the Philistines!” Then he pushed with all his might, and down came the temple on the rulers and all the people in it. Thus he killed many more when he died than while he lived.
- 31 Then his brothers and his father’s whole family went down to get him. They brought him back and buried him between Zorah and Eshtaol in the tomb of Manoah his father. He had led Israel twenty years.

Note: He waited until he was captured, blinded and at the end of his life. How long will you wait and how much will you need to go through before your hair grows back? (cp. 16:22)

May 7, 2021 New Series: Investing in What Really Matters

Big Question: Are You Investing in What Will Matter in the Future?

Annual Series Review Summary: If you want to live well in the new world five things are crucial!

1. You will need good **home training**
2. You will need to **manage your resources**
3. You will need to **manage your expectations**
4. You will need to **tell the truth**
5. You need to **invest in what really matters** (Sow what you want to reach)