



Telling the Truth About Romantic Lies (Part 2)

Date: April 18, 2021

Text: Judges 14:1–20 (NIV)

Tell The Truth Series Summary:

1. Family Lies (Does your family have trouble with the truth?)
2. **Romantic Lies** (Have your romantic choices affected your life?)
3. Imaginary Lies (Is it just your imagination running away with you?)
4. The Consequences of Our Lies (Are you facing consequences that started from a lie?)

Introduction: Samson's biggest challenges centered around his romantic ambitions and choices.

1. Samson based romance on physical attraction

- 14 Samson went down to Timnah and **saw there a young Philistine woman**. 2 When he returned, he said to his father and mother, "**I have seen a Philistine woman** in Timnah; now get her for me as my wife."

2. Samson's parents based romance on values (Samson wanted a woman out of covenant with God)

- 3 His father and mother replied, "Isn't there an acceptable woman among your relatives or among all our people? Must you go to the **uncircumcised** Philistines to get a wife?" But Samson said to his father, "Get her for me. She's the right one for me." 4 (His parents did not know that this was from the Lord, who was seeking an occasion to confront the Philistines; for at that time they were ruling over Israel.)

Note: God had a plan to use this season for a bigger purpose (v4, to punish the Philistines)

3. Samson Had Unhealthy Secrets (He had hidden sides of his life)

- 5 Samson went down to Timnah together with his father and mother. As they approached the vineyards of Timnah, suddenly a young lion came roaring toward him. 6 The Spirit of the Lord came powerfully upon him so that he tore the lion apart with his bare hands as he might have torn a young goat. But **he told neither his father nor his mother what he had done**. 7 Then **he went down and talked with the woman, and he liked her**.

4. Samson Lied by Being Silent (He put others at risk with his silence)

- 8 Some time later, when he went back to marry her, he turned aside to look at the lion's carcass, and in it he saw a swarm of bees and some honey. **9 He scooped out the honey with his hands** and ate as he went along. When he rejoined his parents, **he gave them some**, and they too ate it. But he did not tell them that he had taken the honey from the lion's carcass.

Note: The time Ricky Jr. gave me some food that was tainted

5. Samson Dragged His Family Into a War Zone of Confusion

- 10 Now his father went down to see the woman. And there Samson held a feast, as was customary for young men.

6. Samson Had Phony Friendships With Dangerous People

- 11 When **the people saw him, they chose thirty men to be his companions.** 12 “Let me tell you a riddle,” Samson said to them. “If you can give me the answer within the seven days of the feast, I will give you thirty linen garments and thirty sets of clothes. 13 If you can’t tell me the answer, you must give me thirty linen garments and thirty sets of clothes.”

“Tell us your riddle,” they said. “Let’s hear it.”

- A. He had no knowledge about the men THEY chose to be his friends for the wedding**
- B. If he had been in Israel he would have his own friends and no need for a riddle**

Note: An unnecessary riddle that leads to unnecessary trouble

- 14 He replied, “Out of the eater, something to eat; out of the strong, something sweet.” For three days they could not give the answer. 15 **On the fourth day, they said to Samson’s wife, “Coax your husband into explaining the riddle for us, or we will burn you and your father’s household to death.** Did you invite us here to steal our property?” 16 Then Samson’s wife threw herself on him, sobbing, “You hate me! You don’t really love me. You’ve given my people a riddle, but you haven’t told me the answer.” “I haven’t even explained it to my father or mother,” he replied, “so why should I explain it to you?” 17 **She cried the whole seven days of the feast. So on the seventh day he finally told her,** because she continued to press him. She in turn explained the riddle to her people. 18 Before sunset on the seventh day the men of the town said to him, “What is sweeter than honey? What is stronger than a lion?” Samson said to them, **“If you had not plowed with my heifer (or young cow), you would not have solved my riddle.”**

Question: Do you have unnecessary problems that could have been avoided if you had never been in relationship with **(Fill in the blank)** and had never gone to **(Fill in the blank)**?

7. Samson’s Romantic Relationship Falls Apart (Imagine his parents trip home)

- 19 Then the Spirit of the Lord came powerfully upon him. He went down to Ashkelon, struck down thirty of their men, stripped them of everything and gave their clothes to those who had explained the riddle. Burning with anger, he returned to his father’s home. 20 **And Samson’s wife was given to one of his companions who had attended him at the feast.**

Next Time: Telling The Truth About Imaginary Lies (Part 3)

Read Ahead: Judges 15:1-20