



Telling the Truth About Imaginary Lies (Part 3) (Samson Thought He Was Married)

Date: April 25, 2021

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?)

Text: Judges 15:1–20 (NIV)

Introduction: Samson thinks he is about to visit what he assumed was his wife. But, there is no record of a marriage ceremony being completed. The last time the father or his proposed wife saw him he was, “burning with anger, and he returned to his fathers home after killing thirty men (14:19-20). The father said to Samson, I thought you left hating her so I gave her to another man (15:2)

Seven Results of Samson’s Lying Imagination

1. Samson’s Imagination Led to His Embarrassment

- 1 Later on, at the time of wheat harvest, Samson took a young goat and went to visit his wife. He said, “**I’m going to my wife’s room.**” But her father would not let him go in. 2 “**I was so sure you hated her,**” he said, “that I gave her to your companion. Isn’t her younger sister more attractive? Take her instead.”

2. Samson’s Imagination Led to Property Damage

- 3 Samson said to them, “This time I have a right to get even with the Philistines; I will really harm them.” 4 So he went out and **caught three hundred foxes and tied them tail to tail in pairs.** He then fastened a torch to every pair of tails, 5 lit the torches and let the foxes loose in the standing grain of the Philistines. He burned up the shocks and standing grain, together with the vineyards and olive groves.

3. Samson’s Imagination Led to New Enemies

- 6 When the Philistines asked, “**Who did this?**” they were told, “**Samson, the Timnite’s son-in-law, because his wife was given to his companion.**” So the Philistines went up and burned her and her father to death.

A. Samson’s Imagination Led to More Vengeance

- 7 Samson said to them, “Since you’ve acted like this, I swear that I won’t stop until I get my revenge on you.” 8 He attacked them viciously and slaughtered many of them. Then he went down and stayed in a cave in the rock of Etam.

B. The Philistines Seek Vengeance

- 9 The Philistines went up and camped in Judah, spreading out near Lehi. 10 The people of Judah asked, “Why have you come to fight us?” “We have come to take Samson prisoner,” they answered, “to do to him as he did to us.”

4. Samson's Imagination Led to Necessary Confrontation with His Leaders

- 11 Then **three thousand men** from Judah went down to the cave in the rock of Etam and said to Samson, "Don't you realize that the Philistines are rulers over us? **What have you done to us?**" He answered, "I merely did to them what they did to me." 12 They said to him, "We've come to tie you up and hand you over to the Philistines." Samson said, "Swear to me that you won't kill me yourselves."

5. Samson's Imagination Led to His Arrest

- 13 "Agreed," they answered. "We will only tie you up and hand you over to them. We will not kill you." So they bound him with two new ropes and led him up from the rock. 14 As he approached Lehi, the Philistines came toward him shouting. The Spirit of the Lord came powerfully upon him. The ropes on his arms became like charred flax, and the bindings dropped from his hands.

6. Samson's Imagination Led to the Deaths One Thousand Philistines

- **15 Finding a fresh jawbone of a donkey, he grabbed it and struck down a thousand men.** 16 Then Samson said, "With a donkey's jawbone I have made donkeys of them. With a donkey's jawbone I have killed a thousand men." 17 When he finished speaking, he threw away the jawbone; and the place was called Ramath Lehi.

7. Samson's Imagination Led to Exhaustion

- 18 Because he was very thirsty, he cried out to the Lord, "You have given your servant this great victory. Must I now die of thirst and fall into the hands of the uncircumcised?" 19 Then God opened up the hollow place in Lehi, and water came out of it. When Samson drank, his strength returned and he revived. So the spring was called En Hakkore, and it is still there in Lehi.

Note: 15:20 Samson led Israel for twenty years in the days of the Philistines.

Closing Question: What have you suffered in your life because of an immature imagination?

- A. Has it hurt your family unfairly?
- B. Has it led to foolish romantic choices?
- C. Has it led to violence that could have been prevented?
- D. Has it brought a consequence into your life that cannot be fixed?

Next Time: The Consequences of Lying to Yourself (Part 4)

Read Ahead: Judges 16:1-31