

From Compromise to Collapse: The Story of Samson

Samson ...

- ▶ Who is this guy?
- ▶ What's he all about?
- ▶ Hey, Delilah comes later ...
This is mostly about me!



And the story begins ...

- ▶ *“Again the Israelites did evil in the eyes of the Lord, so the Lord delivered them into the hands of the Philistines for forty years.”* Judges 13:1



Samson's birth ...

- ▶ Samson was destined "*to be a Nazirite, set apart by God from birth, and he will begin the deliverance of Israel from the hands of the Philistines.*" Judges 13:5
- ▶ What is a "Nazirite"?
- ▶ Aren't we all set apart by God?
- ▶ What are the threats to our relationship with God and to our purpose in life?



Samson's marriage ...

- ▶ Judges 14
- ▶ *The Spirit of the Lord came upon him in power ... Samson kills a lion*
- ▶ *The Spirit of the Lord came upon him in power ... Samson kills 30 men*
- ▶ What a party this must have been!



Samson's vengeance ...

- ▶ Judges 15
- ▶ *The Spirit of the Lord came upon him in power ... Samson kills 1000 men with the jawbone of a donkey.*



What should a Nazirite do?

- ▶ *The Spirit of the Lord came upon him in power ... three occasions*
- ▶ Godly living
- ▶ An eye on eternity
- ▶ Humility

What should we do?



Samson and Delilah ...

- ▶ The plot: *"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."* Judges 16:5
- ▶ The trap: *"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." With such nagging, she prodded him day after day until he was tired to death. So he told her everything.*



"No razor has ever been used on my head," he said, "because I have been a Nazirite set apart by God since birth. If my head were shaved, my strength would leave me, and I would become as weak as any other man."

Judges 16:15-17

Why did Samson lose his strength?

What were the real razors that led to his downfall?



Samson's death ...

"Then Samson prayed to the Lord, "O Sovereign Lord, remember me. O God, please strengthen me just once more, and let me with one blow get revenge on the Philistines for my two eyes." Then Samson reached toward the two central pillars on which the temple stood ... he pushed with all his might, and down came the temple with all the people in it. Thus he killed many more when he died than when he lived." Judges 16:28-30



Don't wait:
Surrender to God's
grace, love, and
forgiveness.
