

"You Would Do It—If You Love Me"

"(v.4) Some time later he (Samson) fell in love with a woman in the Valley of Sorek. Her name was Delilah. (v.5) The Philistine tyrants approached her and said, 'Seduce him. Discover what's behind his great strength and how we can tie him up and humble him. Each man's company will give you a hundred shekels of silver.'

(v.6) So Delilah said to Samson, 'Tell me, dear, the secret of your great strength, and how you can be tied up and humbled.' (v.7) Samson told her, 'If they were to tie me up with seven bowstrings—the kind made from fresh animal tendons, not dried out—then I would become weak, just like anyone else.' (v.8) The Philistine tyrants brought her seven bowstrings, not dried out, and she tied him up with them. (v.9) The men were waiting in ambush in her room. Then she said, 'The Philistines are on you, Samson!' He snapped the cords as though they were mere threads. The secret of his strength was still a secret.

(v.10) Delilah said, 'Come now, Samson—you're playing with me, making up stories. Be serious; tell me how you can be tied up.' (v.11) He told her, 'If you were to tie me up tight with new ropes, ropes never used for work, then I would be helpless, just like anybody else.' (v.12) So Delilah got some new ropes and tied him up. She said, 'The Philistines are on you, Samson!' The men were hidden in the next room. He snapped the ropes from his arms like threads. (v.13) Delilah said to Samson, 'You're still playing games with me, teasing me with lies. Tell me how you can be tied up!' He said to her, 'If you wove the seven braids of my hair into the fabric on the loom and drew it tight, then I would be as helpless as any other mortal.' When she had him fast asleep, Delilah took the seven braids of his hair and wove them into the fabric on the loom and drew it tight. (v.14) Then she said, 'The Philistines are on you, Samson!' He woke from his sleep and ripped loose from both the loom and fabric!

(v.15) She said, 'How can you say 'I love you' when you won't even trust me? Three times now you've toyed with me, like a cat with a mouse, refusing to tell me the secret of your great strength.' (v.16) She kept at it day after day, nagging and tormenting him. Finally, he was fed up—he couldn't take another minute of it. He spilled it. (v.17) He told her, 'A razor has never touched my head. I've been God's Nazirite from conception. If were shaved, my strength would leave me; I would be as helpless as any other mortal.' (v.18) When Delilah realized that he had told her his secret, she sent for the Philistine tyrants, telling them, 'Come quickly—this time he's told me the truth.' They came, bringing the bribe money.

(v.19) When she got him to sleep, his head on her lap, she motioned to a man to cut off the seven braids of his hair. Immediately he began to grow weak. His strength drained from him. (v.20) Then she said, 'The Philistines are on you, Samson!' He woke up, thinking, 'I'll go out, like always, and shake free.' He didn't realize that GOD had abandoned him.

(v.21) The Philistines grabbed him, gouged out his eyes, and took him down to Gaza. They shackled him in irons and put him to the work of grinding in the prison. But his hair, though cut off, began to grow again.

Judges 16:4-21

The Message

DELILAH

- Samson got lost in the valley of Sorek—not physically, but spiritually.
- How does a person get lost spiritually?
- As we examine Samson's life, we encounter three major factors which go a long way toward enlightening us about how a person can get lost spiritually.

#1—He left the fellowship of God's people. (v.1 &v.4)

Why?

- ✓ Believed he was invincible (v.1-3)
- ✓ Looking for excitement (v.4)

#2—He encountered the enticing, hypnotic power of evil! (v.6-19)

It is progressive in nature.

First: **It is Strong and bold.**

- ✓ Bind me with 7 bow strings (v.7)
- ✓ Bind me with new ropes (v.11)
- ✓ Weave my hair into braids (v.13)

Second: **The prostitution of love.** (v.15)

**Love never asks for evil
as an expression of love.**

#3—He neglected God. (v.20)

"He woke up, thinking, 'I'll go out, like always, and shake free.'

He didn't realize that GOD had abandoned him." (v.20b)

As darkness closes the second act of Samson's life, you can still hear the grinding of that stone. The grinding of the stone is the sound of conscience. Do you hear grinding? Is your conscience speaking to you this morning? Now is the moment to seek the waiting Father—for he does wait and will come again at your slightest invitation. Invite him!

