

What You Need to Know About GIDEON & SAMSON:

“The Dangers of Losing the Final Lap”

Study Number Six – Judges 14:1-20

Proverbs 22:6

Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he won't depart from it.

How often we quote that verse and we say faithful training during our children's years and then when they're 30 and 40, even if they leave, at 90 they'll come back. That's not what that verse says.

“Train up,” first of all, is a word which refers in the Hebrew text to “putting in the mouth the bit and the bridle.” It is resistance that obedience results. It's instruction in love and insistence, in the matter of obedience.

“Train up a child in the way he should go,”—now a lot of Christian parents take that phrase “he should go” as meaning that the child should be spiritual. That he should focus on going into the ministry and anything short of that is not to be spiritual or “the way he should go.”

And that's not what that verse says at all. “Train up a child in

the way he should go.” It is the way God designed that child. It is the temperament of that child. It’s cooperating with God’s design in that child’s life. That’s the way he should go.

When he’s old, when he’s in his teenage years, he won’t depart from that.

And now we’ve got another emergency on the scene.

“Train up a child in the way he should and when he’s old he won’t depart from it.” Let’s take that verse and look at it in the context of this passage.

In our last study we were introduced to Mr. and Mrs. Manoah. Very, very godly people. They’re just beautiful parents. Immediately papa Manoah expresses faith. He just exudes it. And they both are there at the altar of sacrifice and as the study came to a conclusion, the child Samson was born.

Sunny Samson the Sanguine—everybody just loves him. That happy, delightful person. The Lord blessed him. Yes, the Lord did bless him because he was obedient to the Nazirite vow.

The Nazirite vow involved four things, remember?

1. The drinking of wine or taking anything from the fruit of the vine is avoided.
2. No razor should touch the hair.

3. They should not touch a dead body.
4. They should be separated and holy unto the Lord all the time of the period of the vow.

And Samson was to be set aside with this Nazirite vow for a very specific purpose. And that was to deliver the children of Israel out of bondage to the Philistines, with whom they had been under bondage for about 40 years.

Now at the end of the study, the last verse we looked at, pulsed with enthusiasm and excitement when it said “the Spirit of the Lord began to stir in him.” And we got excited about that.

But there’s another problem that comes on the scene. That’s the fact that at 18 or 19 there are other things that begin to pulsate within a young man.

The big problem we face in our passage is that Samson was such a neat kid, so special that his parents never insisted on him being obedient. They probably never restrained him because the sun rose and set on that kid, and most likely he’s a spoiled little brat, as we’ll see in our study.

He’s never had any loving resistance. He’s never had any interference. Whatever he wanted, he got. They gave the kid everything! He wants it, give it to him.

Well when he began to feel desires for the opposite sex,

focusing in his mind as well, every time he got a desire they just gave into whatever it was. So why hold off here.

And Samson is a picture of what many parents face, and that is open defiance to everything that they've been taught and everything that they live for.

We can always tell DEFIANCE in children and in adults in the following FIVE WAYS:

1. SELFISHNESS—"I want my way."
2. STUBBORNNESS—"I want my way and I'm going to insist on my way and I don't care what happens or who it hurts."
3. INDIFFERENCE—"I don't care about you and whether it hurts you or not. Doesn't make any difference to me."
4. RESISTANCE—"I don't want any counsel. I know what they'll say and I know what the Bible says, but I don't care. I won't go seek counsel. I don't want any counsel. I don't want any advice."
5. CONTEMPT—"I don't care what the consequences are. I'm not concerned about that. I just want my way."

Now some say, "Wow, that isn't only in kids. That's in adults too."

And that's right. Those five steps are the picture of the defiant heart. And we see that displayed in Samson as we look at this particular study.

Something begins to stir in Samson besides the Spirit, and that's the desire for the opposite sex.

In some sense Samson is pulsating with all of these normal desires, but the problem is his parents have never taught him restraint. They have never disciplined him. And so as the scene of the story opens, we're heading toward tragedy.

Let's look at these verses beginning with Judges 14:1

v. 1 Then Samson went down to Timnah and saw a woman in Timnah, one of the daughters of the Philistines.

“Then Samson went down to Timnah and saw a woman in Timnah, one of the daughters of the Philistines.”

Now Timnah is about three and a half miles to the south from his hometown of Zorah. It's in the land of the enemy, the Philistines.

He'd been checking around Zorah High School and there just weren't too many chicks that really were exciting. The scenery just wasn't all that great. And he decides the action's probably down at Timnah. Foreign girls are always more pretty than the local yokels anyway, so why not go down there and check

it out.

Well, it says when he went down there, he “saw a woman in Timnah, one of the daughters of the Philistines.”

Underline those words “went down.” We’ll always find that when a man is going out of the will of God, he goes down. He went down.

Remember Jonah? The Lord said, “Arise and go to Nineveh!” But he went down to Joppa. He bought a ticket, went down in the ship to go to Tarshish. When they’re out in the ship, they discovered who the problem was. Threw him overboard. He became a chicken of the sea, went through a whale of an experience before he got his act together.

God means business in things like that. We always go down when we leave the will of God.

There’s a second thing we need to really catch hold of. This is very insignificant, isn’t it? Just tripping down to Timnah, just checking out the scenery to see if there are any candidates. No big deal.

The problem is, it’s just those little things that lead to the bigger later on. This is very small, but the erosion of character is beginning at this point.

It’s the kind of music we listen to, the kind of movies we watch, the things we read, all that stuff. No big deal!

It's just the beginning of something that's going to have tragic consequences later on.

2 Timothy 2:3, 4

... No man that wars, entangles himself with the affairs of this life, that he can please him who has chosen him to be a soldier.

He's just going down, just to look the thing over. Remember Solomon? "Why not marry one of Pharaoh's daughters so you can have a contract with Egypt? It doesn't make any difference that the Lord says don't marry any foreign women. Let's go ahead. It'll help the whole political circulation. Just one girl when you've got a thousand wives, and she's from Egypt, no big deal."

Abraham and Sarah, down in the land of Egypt, during a time of famine. God didn't tell them to go down there. Sarah gets all bent out of shape because all the other women down the block have a maid and she doesn't have one, so she just throws a hissy fit and Abraham says, "Well, get a maid!"

So they get Hagar and bring her back. Hagar ends up having a child. Out of that came the Arab nation and the years of suffering ever since.

Just a little thing, huh? No big deal. That's the tragic problem with it all.

He goes down there and he “saw.” He was attracted to one of the daughters of the enemy.

It’s difficult to fight the Philistines if he has one of them in his bosom. And God had given specific instructions about not marrying outside the bounds of the people. “She looks good, let’s go with it! I’ve always been able to satisfy my desires before, let’s just go along.”

v. 2 So he came back and told his father and mother, “I saw a woman in Timnah, one of the daughters of the Philistines; now therefore, get her for me as a wife.”

“So he came back and told his father and mother, ‘I saw a woman in Timnah, one of the daughters of the Philistines; now therefore, get her for me as a wife.’”

When he comes back he’s confronted with his folks and he says, “Look, I saw a woman in Timnah.” I want you to underline that, because the word “saw” occurs in the other verse.

He just looked, she looked good on the surface, and there he says again, “I saw a woman in Timnah, one of the daughters of the Philistines.” And look at that next statement:

“now therefore, get her for me as a wife.”

He doesn't even ask them! He's used to telling them what he wants and they get it! They have him spoiled. Anytime he wants something, he just tells them what he wants and they're just supposed to get it.

Notice he doesn't seek any counsel at all about this situation. He saw it, looked good, and got it.

v. 3 Then his father and his mother said to him, “Is there no woman among the daughters of your relatives, or among all our people, that you go to take a wife from the uncircumcised Philistines?” But Samson said to his father, “Get her for me, for she looks good to me.”

“Then his father and his mother said to him, ‘Is there no woman among the daughters of your relatives, or among all our people, that you go to take a wife from the uncircumcised Philistines?’ But Samson said to his father, ‘Get her for me, for she looks good to me.’”

We need to put our feet in their shoes. What are they thinking? They're probably thinking, “Wow! He's going to be a Nazirite from the womb to the tomb, right?” That wasn't what God said but that's what Mrs. Manoah said to papa Manoah.

And now they just can't believe that their son would even consider the possibility of marrying a foreign woman! They're just going bananas!

They say and they do what every parent does. They try to divert the attention back into obedience, away from disobedience. His mother is probably just about in tears.

She says, “Honey, isn’t there anybody here in the city of Zorah? Isn’t there anybody here in the tribe of Dan that you could marry? Listen son, you know there are twelve tribes! It just isn’t the Danites. You can go check out all twelve of them! We’d pay your way. Go find you a sweet little Jewish girl. Don’t make a big mistake by tripping off down to Timnah doing this! Please! Don’t take a wife from the uncircumcised Philistines?”

Samson is defiant. Look at him. He’s just bristles all over.

“Samson said to his father,”

He just leaves his mother out. She’s already crying. Just leaves her out of it. Just turns to his dad and says:

“Get her for me, for she looks good to me.”

What kind of relationship do we think they have? Has he discussed with her at all about the number of children they want to have? Has he talked to her about whether they want to have a Christian home or not? Whether she can cook and sew and do all those things?

Did he just talk to her about whether she likes athletics or not? Or whether she likes to go here or there and the things

she likes and dislikes? No.

She is physically attractive. She's a candidate for Miss Philistine. She's got all the right measurements. That's all that's necessary. Pretty face.

One high school kid said, "Well she's not very bright, she doesn't have much upstairs, but man what a staircase." That's all he cared about.

Physical! The flesh always responds to what looks good to the eye—what's on the surface.

Oftentimes that's the basis for a sad, sad pathway out of the will of God.

Now we need to put ourselves where the parents are. This is a lot worse to them, than it is to Samson right now. Their whole world is crashing in on them. Papa Manoah just can't believe what he's hearing from the lips of his son who's supposed to be so very, very special.

v. 4 However, his father and mother did not know that it was of the Lord, for He was seeking an occasion against the Philistines. Now at that time the Philistines were ruling over Israel.

"However, his father and mother did not know that it was of the Lord, for He was seeking an occasion against the Philistines. Now at that time the Philistines were ruling over

Israel.”

Now a lot of people are troubled by that verse. We need to understand that there is a PERMISSIVE will of God and a PERFECT will of God.

Someone has said, “The Lord gave them the requests. It’s in the Psalms and sends leanness into their soul.”

We’re stubborn, we’re resistant, and we beg for it, and God gives it. He permits it. He knows what we’re going to go through because He permits it. But He can turn that around and make something beautiful out of it too.

And who’d ever thought that Jacob, with four women in his life and eleven kids all under eight, could end up being the twelve tribes of Israel? God took that mess and made a miracle out of it.

And God is allowing this. It’s not His perfect will! That’s already been expressed, but he’s permitting it, He’s going to use it because He never violates free will.

Samson’s going to learn some things out of this particular happening. The parents are deeply upset.

Now sometimes when it looks so bad with our kids, it’s amazing how God can all of a sudden just turn the whole thing around. We can teach our children something out of those circumstances.

v. 5 Then Samson went down to Timnah with his father and mother, and came as far as the vineyards of Timnah; and behold, a young lion came roaring toward him.

“Then Samson went down to Timnah with his father and mother, and came as far as the vineyards of Timnah; and behold, a young lion came roaring toward him.”

Alright, they’re heading down toward Timnah. Mother and dad, this is the longest trip in their lives. They know they’re violating the principles of the Word of God, they know they’re acquiescing to something that they don’t want to, but they don’t want to hurt their son. He’s got his mind made up about what he’s going to do. They’re hurt, they don’t know what to do. They’ve prayed about it. They’re going down there because he’s bent on going.

As they come close to the vineyards of Timnah, Samson says, “I’ll see you downtown. Later folks.” And he goes tripping off through the vineyard.

Now why did he go through the vineyard? Because he’s hungry. He wants something to eat. What’s in the vineyard? Grapes.

As he’s walking along through the vineyard to marry a foreign girl, he’s hungry and he’s helping himself, eating some grapes.

Does that have any significance? Now it really does. Because it involves the slow erosion and deterioration of the Nazirite vow, which is so sad.

In the pathway of disobedience we'll always meet the lion. To say it was like a roaring lion seeking whom he may tear apart. And as we step into the path of disobedience, we'll find him right there, eager to eat our lunch and tear us limb from limb.

Isn't God faithful?—verse 6.

v. 6 And the spirit of the Lord came upon him mightily, so that he tore him as one tears a kid though he had nothing in his hand; but he did not tell his father or mother what he had done.

“And the spirit of the Lord came upon him mightily, so that he tore him as one tears a kid though he had nothing in his hand, but he did not tell his father or mother what he had done.”

Why? For the very simple reason that we don't hassle our folks over too many things. If we have too many bad things going and they already know one of them, we don't hit them with another one, right? We keep it away from them.

If our kids break communication with us, we better sit down right now and find out what the problem is because there's something wrong.

Those are dangerous signals. And when they aren't talking,

they act guilty, they get quiet, they go to their room, there is something that has gotten them bothered and we better get it out in the open.

Samson said, “Man, they’re bugged enough about this woman in Timnah! I can’t tell them I’ve been eating grapes and killed a lion. They would cry all the more.”

v. 7 So he went down and talked to the woman; and she looked good to Samson.

“So he went down and talked to the woman; and she looked good to Samson.”

The well-watered plains of Jordan looked good to Lot too. Bathsheba looked good to David. And on and on we can go.

There’s a principle here. If Satan can get us looking, he knows that he can get us thinking. And it’s an easy step to the acquiescence of the will.

So watch where we look friend. It all begins with the eye, goes to the mind, and ends up in the will. Samson just continuously through this passage focuses on what looks good.

v. 8 When he returned later to take her, he turned aside to look at the carcass of the lion; and behold, a swarm of bees and honey were in the body of the lion.

“When he returned later to take her,”

Now let's stop there for just a second. After they signed a contract like this, they had about eight or nine months, maybe ten months before they had the wedding. This is so she'd get her trousseau together so he could prepare for the feast and all that stuff. It was a seven day thing—great day feast and all that—and a very special occasion.

But they always had several months like this, somewhere around ten months of a waiting period before the wedding actually took place. What are the parents doing now? They're on their knees every night, pleading with God that Samson will change his mind and that God will bring somebody from Zorah or somebody from Dan or someone from the other tribes of the nation Israel into his life.

They probably had dinner parties over at their house with eligible candidates on the right and on the left to work out some kind of a situation to divert Samson away from thinking about this girl down in Timnah.

And daddy Manoah is just pleading the promises, from the womb to the tomb. And God didn't say that, but Mrs. Manoah did. Living with this false supposition he's becoming resentful and bitter because it doesn't seem like God's doing anything.

And it says:

““When he returned later to take her,”

He got down to the same place where the vineyard was, he let his parents go on. What a horrible trip for them. It was like walking the last mile as far as they were concerned. They couldn't see any possibility that he was going to recover from this situation. It says:

“he turned aside to look at the carcass of the lion; and behold, a swarm of bees and honey were in the body of the lion.”

Through all these months in the sun.

v. 9 So he scraped the honey into his hands and went on, eating as he went. When he came to his father and mother, he gave some to them and they ate it; but he did not tell them that he had scraped the honey out of the body of the lion.

“So he scraped the honey into his hands and went on, eating as he went. When he came to his father and mother, he gave some to them and they ate it; but he did not tell them that he had scraped the honey out of the body of the lion.”

And when we're walking a stubborn path of defiance and resistance, our folks are only just going to get mad if we tell them, so don't say anything to them. So he doesn't.

Probably right at this point he has broken the second part of the vow. He touched a dead body. He just didn't want his parents to know it. He's eaten some grapes, he's touched a

dead body, so he doesn't tell them where he got the honey. It'd just upset them some more anyway.

v. 10 Then his father went down to the woman; and Samson made a feast there, for the young men customarily did this.

“Then his father went down to the woman; and Samson made a feast there, for the young men customarily did this.”

How does his mother and father feel? Like a Christian at a drunken brawl. Terribly out of place.

All the laughter and the silly talking on the surface, so hypocritical and so phony. Talking about things that really don't matter. His folks just can't believe that they're in this particular environment. They must have felt awfully out of place.

“Samson made a feast there,”

What did they serve at the feast? The last feast there, they were drinking like crazy, wining and dining to the god Dagan. And it's his responsibility to serve these people with a feast they're accustomed to. He's most likely drinking here.

Three out of four parts of the vow are broken at this point. And there's only one slender thread that's still intact. He hasn't had a razor touch his hair.

v. 11 And it came about when they saw him that they brought thirty companions to be with him.

“And it came about when they saw him that they brought thirty companions to be with him.”

Samson went down there to marry one and ended up with thirty. There are these guys, come right toward him.

v. 12 Then Samson said to them, “Let me now propound a riddle to you; if you will indeed tell it to me within the seven days of the feast, and find it out, then I will give you thirty linen wraps and thirty changes of clothes.

“Then Samson said to them, ‘Let me now propound a riddle to you; if you will indeed tell it to me within the seven days of the feast, and find it out, then I will give you thirty linen wraps and thirty changes of clothes.’”

v. 13 But if you are unable to tell me, then you shall give me thirty linen wraps and thirty changes of clothes.” And they said to him, “Propound your riddle, that we may hear it.”

“But if you are unable to tell me, then you shall give me thirty linen wraps and thirty changes of clothes.’ And they said to him, ‘Propound your riddle, that we may hear it.’”

He says, “Look guys, I’ve got a little wager. I’ll bet you thirty

sets of clothes that you can't guess my riddle."

Samson's happy, isn't he? He's always the life of the party.

He says, "Hey guys, I've got something I want to lay on you. I'm gonna give you a riddle, you guess it, you can get a suit of clothes. But if y'all can't make it in seven days, then you've got to do the same for me. Okay?"

They say, "Great! Give it to us!"

And this became the little jingle for the whole week.

v. 14 So he said to them, "Out of the eater came something to eat, and out of the strong came something sweet." But they could not tell the riddle in three days.

"So he said to them, 'Out of the eater came something to eat, and out of the strong came something sweet.'"

We can almost hear them. They're all sitting around, thirty of them, divided up some of them into little groups. Waiting in the cafeteria line for food, before they go to bed at night:

"Out of the eater came something to eat, and out of the strong came something sweet."

"Out of the eater came something to eat, and out of the strong came something sweet."

“Oh man, I cannot figure that out.” And these guys are just consulting with one another and they’re going over it and over it and over it. Right at the beginning they say, “Find out from your husband what the answer to that is.”

“But they could not tell the riddle in three days.”

v. 15 Then it came about on the fourth day that they said to Samson’s wife, “Entice your husband, that he may tell us the riddle, lest we burn you and your father’s house with fire. Have you invited us to impoverish us? Is this not so?”

“Then it came about on the fourth day that they said to Samson’s wife, ‘Entice your husband, that he may tell us the riddle, lest we burn you and your father’s house with fire.’”

Wow! They mean business.

“Have you invited us to impoverish us? Is this not so?”

v. 16 And Samson’s wife wept before him and said, “You only hate me, and you do not love me; you have propounded a riddle to the sons of my people, and have not told it to me.” And he said to her, “Behold, I have not told it to my father or mother; so should I tell you?”

“And Samson’s wife wept before him and said, ‘You only hate

me, and you do not love me;”—she’s crying the blues.

“You hate me”—when everything’s physical like that it’s always temporary. Love can change to hate just like that. There’s no real intimacy. When the physical’s gone, the relationship’s destroyed.

“And Samson’s wife wept before him and said, ‘You only hate me, and you do not love me, you have propounded a riddle to the sons of my people, and have not told it to me.’”

Something important to notice. Wedding in the will of God is to be one of the most joyful occasions that someone will ever experience. There is a moment of maximum fulfillment in the expression of the will of God on earth. And if there’s a lot of crying going on it’s because they’re out of the will of God.

Tears all over the place—time of great weeping.

When the Lord comes again it’s supposed to be a time of great joy too. But the record tells us in Revelation that He’s going to wipe away all tears from their eyes. Why?

People living with vain regret. People who have to shrink away in shame from Him at His coming because of their disobedient heart, their defiled lives, their failures. Crying the whole serenade. It’s supposed to be a neat time of joy and fulfillment. It would have been that if he had stayed up there in Zorah and found some sweet girl from there.

She says, “You’ve told a riddle to the sons of my people,”—there we get a clue. There’s still tension between the two.

“and you have not told it to me. And he said to her, ‘Behold, I have not told it to my father or mother; so should I tell it to you?’”

That only opens the flood gates and does she ever start to bawl.

v. 17 However she wept before him seven days while their feast lasted. And it came about on the seventh day that he told her because she pressed him so hard. She then told the riddle to the sons of her people.

“However she wept before him seven days while their feast lasted.”

She really turns it on.

“And it came about on the seventh day that he told her because she pressed him so hard.”

She put all kinds of tactics on him! And on the seventh day he’s pressed so hard that finally he says, “Good grief woman! Shut up!”

“Out of the eater came something to eat, and out of the strong came something sweet.”

“The answer to the riddle is simply what is sweeter than honey and what is stronger than the lion! Now bug off.”

“She then told the riddle to the sons of her people.”

Naturally.

It’s amazing how Satan can take something which is beautiful on the surface and make it ugly and repulsive just as quickly. But he always makes it pretty to the eye so we’ll bite. Then it becomes ugly and repulsive.

Proverbs tells us:

Proverbs 5:3, 4

The lips of an adulteress drip with honey, they’re smoother than oil is her speech; but in the end she is bitter as wormwood, sharp as a two-edged sword. Her feet go down to death and her steps lay hold of Sheol.

We find when we go through tragic events like this, we ought to learn the lesson that God’s trying to teach so we don’t have to replay that thing again and fail on a second occasion.

v. 18 So the men of the city said to him on the seventh day before the sun went down, “What is sweeter than honey? And what is stronger than a lion?” And he said to them, “If you had not plowed with my

heifer, You would not have found out my riddle.”

“So the men of the city said to him on the seventh day before the sun went down, ‘What is sweeter than honey? And what is stronger than a lion?’”

What did they do when they said that? They probably started laughing. “Hahaha! We got it! Where’s those thirty suits of clothes man?!”

We always find that when we’re out of fellowship with God we become a laughing stock to the world. They’re repulsed by the inconsistency, the hypocrisy and the folly of our life. The world laughs. We become so lonely when we leave our brothers and sisters, walk out of the will of God in a glaring inconsistency like this.

We can see he’s really ticked! Look what he says.

“And he said to them, ‘If you had not plowed with my heifer, You would not have found out my riddle.’”

Not very complimentary of her.

Let’s turn that around. Perhaps instead of getting so mad at them, why doesn’t he get mad at himself?

“If you had not plowed with THEIR heifer, they would never have found out your riddle either. You’re the one that’s responsible. Samson, would you avoid further heartache by

recognizing the fact that if this should ever happen again, you'll avoid this situation?"

v. 19 Then the Spirit of the Lord came upon him mightily, and he went down to Ashkelon and killed thirty of them and took their spoil, and gave the changes of clothes to those who told the riddle. And his anger burned, and he went up to his father's house.

"Then the Spirit of the Lord came upon him mightily, and he went down to Ashkelon and killed thirty of them and took their spoil, and gave the changes of clothes to those who told the riddle. And his anger burned, and he went up to his father's house."

That is the beginning of the liberation of the people of God from the Philistines. This is the first encounter with them in this liberation that should take place.

As we come to the end of this particular study and episode in the life Samson, we find him:

BURNING,

BITTER,

BETRAYED, and

BLOODY.

And he heads back to the house very upset.

v. 20 But Samson's wife was given to his companion who had been his friend.

"But Samson's wife was given to his companion who had been his friend."

Well that's adding insult to injury. Ever wonder why that's in the text? Ever wonder why that happened? God knows He can't trust Samson with further temptation so He takes it away from him.

A lot of times in our life God cannot trust us in a given set of circumstances that come into our life so He takes those circumstances out of our life.

He knows, provided with those sets of opportunities, we would invariably fail and so He provides no further opportunity for that. And He knows that Samson will. And in fact, as the scene of the next study opens, he goes right back to Timnah, checking out things down there. But he finds out much to his frustration and dismay that it's too late. It's given to somebody else.

There are a number of lessons that are very serious that come out of this particular study.

Lesson #1: How careful we must be where we look.

It goes from the eye, to the mind, then to the will.

Lesson #2: We have seen the horrible consequences of failing to listen to one's parents.

There's safety in a multitude of counselors.

Sometimes we say we want advice but then if it disagrees with what we've already figured out and worked out we don't want to hear it.

Samson had his mind made up when he came back from Timnah so he's just used to telling his folks what he wanted and he told them, and he's just stubbornly went on ahead.

And look how terrible it all turns out. The consequences of failing to listen to one's parents.

Lesson #3: Satan uses that which looks beautiful to entice us and then it becomes ugly and repulsive.

Lesson #4: The lion is seen in the path of disobedience.

He's there as soon as we step out of the will of God. He'll tear us limb from limb.

Lesson #5: The progression of nullifying the Nazirite vow.

Three down and one to go. He's hanging on by a very slender

thread. Most likely he's eaten the fruit of the vine, touched a dead body, and he's had something to drink.

We are a single little thread. God allowed all that. We'll come to the pinnacle of his career in the next episode. He'll actually pray and he'll have a victory. But how temporary it is.

Lesson #6: The woman reveals her loyalties by persisting to have an interpretation of the riddle propounded by Samson.

Lesson #7: The Lord sees to it that the woman is given to somebody else to avoid further temptation.

Lesson #8: Samson needed to learn from this experience to be prepared for Delilah.

But he's not learning. And he won't.

Lesson #9: "Be not unequally yoked together with unbelievers is the manner of some men." (2 Corinthians 6:14)

Lesson #10: Children obey your parents.

Lesson #11: When the Lord says no it obligates Him to a better plan.

He certainly had that plan in mind for Samson, if he were only open and receptive to it. But we'll never see that.

There are people all over the place that are really not sure

about their relationship to Christ. There are people who are very hungry and have some real needs.

It's exciting that through the teaching of the Word, God is prospering and blessing in bringing folks to Himself. Our hope is if there's anybody who doesn't know Christ, this will be a time of very serious consideration to receive Him as Savior.

And as His child, out of the study of Gideon and Samson, each person will see the serious consequences of violating even a slight biblical principle—that is from our point of view—and how it leads to some very, very serious consequences.

Father, thank You for the encouragement and the opportunity to study Your Word. Lord, many of us have been in these places where we're so frustrated because of the indifference sometimes of our children toward us as parents. And the hurt that comes, the resistance to wise counsel and advice. We pray that You'll teach us how to conduct ourselves as good parents. Enable us to see that really the greatest resource they have is our parents who can give advice and counsel, guidance and instruction. And that living life by biblical principle is always the safest place to be. Thank You so much for Your Word and the opportunity we've had now to share in it. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

What You Need to Know About GIDEON & SAMSON:

“The Dangers of Losing the Final Lap”

Study Number Six – Judges 14:1-20

NOTES

v. 1 Then Samson went down to Timnah and saw a woman in Timnah, one of the daughters of the Philistines.

v. 2 So he came back and told his father and mother, “I saw a woman in Timnah, one of the daughters of the Philistines; now therefore, get her for me as a wife.”

v. 3 Then his father and his mother said to him, “Is there no woman among the daughters of your relatives, or among all our people, that you go to take a wife from the uncircumcised Philistines?” But Samson said to his father, “Get her for me, for she looks good to me.”

v. 4 However, his father and mother did not know that it was of the Lord, for He was seeking an occasion against the Philistines. Now at that time the Philistines were ruling over Israel.

v. 5 Then Samson went down to Timnah with his father and mother, and came as far as the vineyards of Timnah; and behold, a young lion came roaring toward him.

v. 6 And the spirit of the Lord came upon him mightily, so that he tore him as one tears a kid though he had nothing in his hand; but he did not tell his father or mother what he had done.

v. 7 So he went down and talked to the woman; and she looked good to Samson.

v. 8 When he returned later to take her, he turned aside to look at the carcass of the lion; and behold, a swarm of bees and honey were in the body of the lion.

v. 9 So he scraped the honey into his hands and went on, eating as he went. When he came to his father and mother, he gave some to them and they ate it; but he did not tell them that he had scraped the honey out of the body of the lion.

v. 10 Then his father went down to the woman; and Samson made a feast there, for the young men customarily did this.

NOTES

v. 11 And it came about when they saw him that they brought thirty companions to be with him.

v. 12 Then Samson said to them, “Let me now propound a riddle to you; if you will indeed tell it to me within the seven days of the feast, and find it out, then I will give you thirty linen wraps and thirty changes of clothes.

v. 13 But if you are unable to tell me, then you shall give me thirty linen wraps and thirty changes of clothes.” And they said to him, “Propound your riddle, that we may hear it.”

v. 14 So he said to them, “Out of the eater came something to eat, and out of the strong came something sweet.” But they could not tell the riddle in three days.

v. 15 Then it came about on the fourth day that they said to Samson’s wife, “Entice your husband, that he may tell us the riddle, lest we burn you and your father’s house with fire. Have you invited us to impoverish us? Is this not so?

v. 16 And Samson’s wife wept before him and said, “You only hate me, and you do not love me; you have propounded a riddle to the sons of my people, and have not told it to me.” And he said to her, “Behold, I have not told it to my father or mother; so should I tell you?”

v. 17 However she wept before him seven days while their feast lasted. And it came about on the seventh day that he told her because she pressed him so hard. She then told the riddle to the sons of her people.

v. 18 So the men of the city said to him on the seventh day before the sun went down, “What is sweeter than honey? And what is stronger than a lion?” And he said to them, “If you had not plowed with my heifer, You would not have found out my riddle.”

v. 19 Then the Spirit of the Lord came upon him mightily, and he went down to Ashkelon and killed thirty of them and took their spoil, and gave the changes of clothes to those who told the riddle. And his anger burned, and he went up to his father’s house.

v. 20 But Samson’s wife was given to his companion who had been his friend.

QUESTIONS:

1. Read Judges 14:1-20 and in your own words pull out the main thought of this passage.

2. What does Samson do in verses 1 & 2?

3. How do his parents respond in verses 3 & 4?

4. What happens in verses 5 & 6?

5. What is the riddle, according to verse 14?

6. How do the Philistines go about getting the answer to the riddle?

7. How does Samson respond, according to verse 19?

8. What is the end of the story in verse 20?

9. What verse in the study has meant the most to you?

10. What lesson have you learned from this study?

LESSONS FROM THE PASSAGE:

What are some of the lessons we can learn from this particular study?

LESSON #1: How careful we must be with the lust of the eyes.

LESSON #2: In this passage we see the horrible consequences that result from failing to listen and respect the wishes of one's parents.

LESSON #3: Satan uses that which looks beautiful and enticing to eventually become something ugly and repulsive.

LESSON #4: The lion is seen to be in the path of disobedience.

LESSON #5: The progress toward eventually nullifying the Nazarite vow is seen in Samson's carelessness in several areas.

LESSON #6: The woman reveals her loyalties by persisting to have an interpretation of the riddle propounded by Samson.

LESSON #7: The Lord sees to it that the woman is given to someone else so that Samson will not have this temptation to return to this situation again.

LESSON #8: Samson needed to learn from this experience so

he could be prepared for Delilah.

LESSON #9: Do not be unequally yoked.

LESSON #10: Children obey your parents

LESSON #11: When the Lord says no, He's obligated to a better plan.

ADDITIONAL NOTES:
