

# Judges 14 – Things that can destroy a Leader

Brothers and sisters: Samson was a man of faith. But there were weaknesses in his life, as you will see today. The truth is, his weaknesses damaged his ability to be a more effective ruler in Christ's church.

Our headings are:

The Wandering Eye

The Wandering Tongue

The Wandering Heart

Our goals are: That you will be a leader who is properly focused on God's glory and not allow yourself to be distracted by common lusts, that you will submit to such a leader, and that you both will do these things because of the work of Jesus Christ for you.

## The Wandering Eye

1 Now Samson went down to Timnah, and saw a woman in Timnah of the daughters of the Philistines. 2 So he went up and told his father and mother, saying, "I have seen a woman in Timnah of the daughters of the Philistines; now therefore, get her for me as a wife."

**1. Samson was born under extraordinary circumstances**在特殊情况下**of providence**天意. He was born to a **barren woman**. His birth was **announced by the Lord** Jesus himself. He was **directly appointed to be leader** and deliverer of his nation from the idolatrous偶像崇拜的Philistines. He was raised for this special Nazirite service – separated from wine and dead things and his hair was uncut. **He knew he was special to God, but he developed a wandering eye. It was lust of the eyes.** But...

**2. Instead of looking to marry one who believed the same as he, one who would help him in his work, one as godly as his mother, he let the lust of his eyes get the better of him.** Seeing a girl of the Philistines, he shamelessly went and told his parents to get her to be his wife. He ignored God's law.

Deuteronomy 7:3 "**Nor shall you make marriages with them.** You shall not give your daughter to their son, nor take their daughter for your son.

3 Then his father and mother said to him, "Is there **no woman among the daughters of your brethren**, or among all my people, that you must go and get a wife from the uncircumcised Philistines?" And Samson said to his father, "**Get her for me, for she pleases me well.**"

**3. His parents made a valiant 英勇effort to make him find a girl who worshipped the true and living God, Jehovah.**

And his parents made a valiant effort to dissuade劝阻 him from marrying a girl from an unbelieving land, even calling her unclean. But **Samson** did not argue that he was justified in marrying the young lady; she simply cried out all the more, "Get her for me, I really like her." There was no logic in his answer, there was only lust. His eyes led him.

4 But his father and mother did not know that **it was of the LORD**—that He was seeking an occasion to move against the Philistines. For at that time the Philistines had dominion主权over Israel.

**4. Yet God was using Samson's wickedness as a means of accomplishing his purpose.** God was not the author of sin.

## 5. Lessons:

**a. Always be mindful whose you are! You are Christ's.** If you do, you will realize that children of the king must not mix with the filth污垢 of the earth. And you would rather pluck out挖出 your eye that join with wickedness! Pray: Ps 119:37 Turn away my eyes from looking at worthless things, **And revive me in Your way.** God's way is best! **Parents must ensure that their children do not mix with the unclean in marriage.** Clean things are never improved by unclean things.

**b. Look how one area of sin can bring a man down.** This is particularly important to leaders. And women should avoid men with uncontrolled weakness in one area.

**c. God used the wickedness of Samson to preserve his people,** just like God used the wicked Jews who executed the Lord Jesus to preserve them from sin, death, and hell. God used Nebuchadnezzar and Cyrus – pagans.

**d. Consider how the Lord Jesus passed the test of the lust of the eyes so you are credited with his obedience.**

Matthew 4: 8 Again, the devil took Him up on an exceedingly high mountain, and **showed Him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory.** 9 And he said to Him, "All these things I will give You if you will fall down and worship me."10 Then Jesus said to him, "Away with you, Satan! For it is written, 'You shall worship the LORD your God, and Him only you shall serve.'"

## The Wandering Tongue

5 So Samson went down to Timnah with his father and mother, and came to the vineyards of Timnah. Now to his surprise, **a young lion came roaring against him.** 6 And the Spirit of the LORD came mightily upon him, and he tore the lion apart as one would have torn apart a young goat, though he had nothing in his hand. But he did not tell his father or his mother what he had done. 7 Then he went down and **talked with the woman;** and she **pleased Samson well.**

8 After some time, when he **returned to get her**, he turned aside to see the carcass尸体 of the lion. And behold, a swarm of bees and honey were in the **carcass of the lion**. 9 He **took some of it in his hands and went along, eating**. When he came to his father and mother, **he gave some to them, and they also ate**. But **he did not tell them** that he had taken the honey out of the carcass of the lion.

**1. As Samson practiced for his work ahead, he was attacked by a young roaring lion—a strong lion—and he killed it with his bare hands 赤手空拳, like one would skin a goat.** Most people are deathly scared of a roaring lion, but not he. Most people would not be able to skin a goat with their own hand. **But the Bible made it clear that this was the work of God’s Holy Spirit that strengthened Samson to kill the roaring lion, not the work of Samson.** God’s equipping of Samson with physical strength must have encouraged him!

**2. Samson then went to Timnah and met the young lady in whom he was interested.** Convinced that she was the right one, he went back a second time to get her to be his wife.

**3. As he returned the 2<sup>nd</sup> time, we see Samson’s wandering tongue.** He saw that some bees had made honey in the carcass of the dead lion. So he took some and ate. And to make matters worse, he took some of the honey and gave it to his parents and they ate it as well. He did not tell them where he got the honey. They would have refused it if he had told them. Further, as a Nazirite, he had no right to touch anything that was dead or unclean. **But lust of the flesh caught him.** The **lust of the flesh is more often associated with food that what you might think!**

#### **4. Lessons:**

**a. Know that Jesus promised you his Holy Spirit to make you bold to face the roaring lion who is out to steal, kill, and destroy.** So when you face opposition don’t back down about what you believe. So pray for to be filled with the Holy Spirit. Fight your spiritual fights with him.

**b. To be of service to the kingdom you have to be clean.** You must stay away from anything that makes you unclean. Stay away from bad friends who encourage you in wickedness. Don’t touch superstitious things like horoscopes 占星 or fortune-telling. Don’t allow alcohol or food to control you. Remember Esau’s slavery to food.

**c. Consider what Jesus endured for you: He won against the lust of the flesh and gave you his credit.**

Matthew 4:2 And when He had fasted forty days and forty nights, afterward He was hungry.

3 Now when the tempter came to Him 试探来到他, he said, "If You are the Son of God, command that these stones become bread." 4 But He answered and said, "It is written, '**Man shall not live by bread alone**, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.'"

## **A Wandering Heart**

10 So **his father went down to the woman**. And **Samson gave a feast there**, for young men used to do so. 11 And it happened, when they saw him, that they brought thirty companions to be with him. 12 Then Samson said to them, "Let me pose a riddle to you. If you can correctly solve and explain it to me within the seven days of the feast, then I will give you **thirty linen garments 30亚麻服装 and thirty changes of clothing**." 13 "But if you cannot explain it to me, then you shall give me thirty linen garments and thirty changes of clothing." And they said to him, "Pose your riddle, that we may hear it." 14 So he said to them: "Out of the eater came something to eat, And out of the strong came something sweet." Now for three days they could not explain the riddle.

**1. Samson’s father gave him his demands and Samson’s father (along with him) gave a party for the young men of Timnah, where the young lady lived. It was like a bachelor party.** There were about 30 young men there.

**2. Samson then told the young men a riddle with the promise of a great reward of 30 linen garments and 30 changes of clothing** – a very expensive gift. The riddle was, "Out of the eater came something to eat, and out of the strong same something sweet." What is interesting here is that Samson, as he was giving the riddle, Samson’s mind must have remembered the indiscretion of touching a dead animal...and even eating what touched the dead animal! **But he wanted to tell this riddle because pride was swelling in his heart!** He believed he knew more than they. So **the young men tried and tried but could not get the answer.**

15 But it came to pass on the seventh day that they said to Samson’s wife, "**Entice your husband**, that he may explain the riddle to us, or else **we will burn you and your father’s house with fire**. Have you invited us in order to take what is ours? Is that not so?" 16 Then Samson’s wife wept on him, and said, "**You only hate me! You do not love me!** You have posed a riddle to the sons of my people, but you have not explained it to me." And he said to her, "Look, I have not explained it to my father or my mother; so should I explain it to you?" 17 Now **she had wept on**

**him the seven days while their feast lasted.** And it happened on the seventh day that he told her, because she pressed him so much. Then she explained the riddle to the sons of her people. 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 solved my riddle!"

**3. So the young men went after Samson's wife and threatened her and her father's house if she did not find out the answer to the riddle from Samson.** How awful these men were to **threaten a marriage and life** to get some clothing. Isn't it awful when a man gets killed for a pair of sneakers? Yet, what could one expect if one messes around with the wicked. "If you go to a **mud crab青蟹dance,** you're going to get mud on your clothes."

**4. Fear of the young men was greater than her faithfulness to her husband. Feeling the pressure from his unbelieving wife, Samson told her the answer to the riddle.** What could he expect if he married someone **who never learned faithfulness to the Lord?** Can a polluted well 受污染的井bring forth fresh water淡水? What a wedding present she gave to her husband: A full case of deception and a goblet "crocodile tears." 欺骗和“鳄鱼的眼泪”。

**5. After Samson told her the answer to the riddle, she told the answer to the men and they told Samson.** That shattered Samson's pride. And the **betrayal of his wife shattered Samson's heart.** He accused the Philistines of "plowing with his heifer," or pressuring 施压 his wife. What a wicked woman he had for a wife. So he went back to his parents.

19 Then **the Spirit of the LORD came upon him mightily,** and he went down to Ashkelon and killed thirty of their men, **took their apparel穿戴,** and gave the changes of clothing to those who had explained the riddle. So his anger was aroused, and he went back up to his father's house. 20 And Samson's wife was given to his companion, who had been his best man.

**6. But the Lord used Samson's arrogance, pride, and theft, to accomplish good for his people.** Samson became so angry with his wife and the Philistines that he went out to Ashkelon, a Philistine city, and killed 30 Philistines and took their clothing and gave it to the 30 men of Timnah. The problem was that **if he had fought in the way he ought to have, then he would have avoided this personal hatred the men had for him.** And if he fought the right way, as a Nazirite, he wouldn't be **taking clothes off of dead people** to pay his debts. And surely he wouldn't be gambling 赌博.

## **7. Lessons:**

**1. Unlike Samson, don't fight with people because you are angry with them and want to prove you are right; fight with them because you love them and want to destroy their blindness in sin.**

**2. A leader who is presumptuous狂妄and tempts诱惑the Lord can expect his whip on him and his charges!**

**3. Consider what the Lord endured for you.** He could have been presumptuous in his heart, but he wasn't.

Matthew 4:5-Then the devil took Him up into the holy city, set Him on the pinnacle 巅峰of the temple, 6 and said to Him, "**If You are the Son of God, throw Yourself down.** For it is written: 'He shall give His angels charge over you,' and, 'In their hands they shall bear you up, Lest you dash your foot against a stone 冲你的脚碰在石头上.'" 7 Jesus said to him, "It is written again, 'You shall not tempt the LORD your God.'"

## **Conclusion:**

Samson was the deliverer of God's people but he had struggles with his eye, his tongue, and his heart. This **made his job difficult.** This **endangered his people.** This **limited his ability to bless his people.** But for the grace of God, he would not have been successful, as **God used even his weakness to accomplish great things for his people.** They needed a new leader.

Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ:

**1. As a leader in the home, church, and state, learn to control your appetites, your lusts.** If you do, you will be able to focus on the glory of God and the good of your neighbor. If you don't, you will hurt the cause of Christ and hurt the spread of the prosperity of the church.

**2. Submit to leaders in the home, church, or state who have control of their desires. Don't run to the flashy伪装的one or the smooth talker.** Look for the one who loves Christ.

**3. Only when someone understands that Christ provides everything he needs when he died on the cross will he be truly satisfied.** And when he is truly satisfied, he will be able to serve others, and then he will be able to submit to others.

Finally, a warning to non-believers: If you don't know Christ, you are living for your own pleasure and profit. But what will that profit you when you stand before God in judgment when you die? Why not have the life and death of Jesus in your hand when you appear before God? That is the only thing he will accept. That is what he offers to you now. Receive it.