



Sunday August 18, 2019
The Lap Of Delilah

This morning we are going to look at the life of Samson and draw some lessons. Although we are considering the life of Samson, this message is not addressed to MEN alone. The insights we draw from the life of Samson is applicable to all of us, men and women.

SAMSON'S CALL AND CONSECRATION

The book of Judges covers a period of about 440 years, after Joshua till the prophet Samuel.

There were several Judges (14 in all, not including Eli and Samuel) who helped lead and govern Israel during this time.

Judges 13:1-5

1 Again the children of Israel did evil in the sight of the LORD, and the LORD delivered them into the hand of the Philistines for forty years.

2 Now there was a certain man from Zorah, of the family of the Danites, whose name was Manoah; and his wife was barren and had no children.

3 And the Angel of the LORD appeared to the woman and said to her, "Indeed now, you are barren and have borne no children, but you shall conceive and bear a son.

4 Now therefore, please be careful not to drink wine or similar drink, and not to eat anything unclean.

5 For behold, you shall conceive and bear a son. And no razor shall come upon his head, for the child shall be a Nazirite to God from the womb; and he shall begin to deliver Israel out of the hand of the Philistines."

Judges chapter 13, begins with Israel being under the rule of the Philistines for about 40 years.

At this time, there was a man named Manoah (meaning rest). He lived in a city called Zorah. Zorah is about 14 miles west of Jerusalem. It was in the land of the tribe of Dan. Manoah and his wife, had no children.

"The Angel of the LORD appeared". As we learn from the book of Judges (chapter 2:1-5; 6:11-24) and elsewhere, this Angel is God Himself appearing in physical form to man. This is often referred to as "theophany" (pronounced thee oh fuh nee). Theophany is different from incarnation. Theophany has to do with God **appearing** in some physical form to man. Incarnation has to do with God **taking on** the physical form of man and living in this world.



In the Old Testament, we see different kinds of theophanies:

(A) appearance in human form, as a man. e.g. Jacob wrestled with a Man (Genesis 32:24).

(B) appearance as an Angel, as in this example. The "Angel of the LORD" is a term, used several times in Scripture to the appearance of Yahweh Himself

(C) appearance in other physical forms, as the burning bush to Moses, pillar of cloud, pillar of fire, and so on.

However, in all theophanies, no one saw God's actual face.

The Angel - that is God as an Angel - appeared to Manoah's wife and announced the birth of Samson, the life he had to live and the call on his life.

Samson was called to a life of consecration to God. He was called to be a 'Nazirite'.

'Nazirite' means separated, consecrated, devoted.

This was shown by the life he had to live - He was to live devoted to God. He would not drink wine or eat any grape products. He would avoid any contact with anything dead. He would leave his hair uncut as a sign of his being a Nazirite. Even his mother was forbidden to eat or drink any grape product or eat any unclean thing during her pregnancy.

This man Samson, was called to deliver Israel from the Philistines. Although it was not stated by the Angel, Samson would do this in the most unique way, by receiving supernatural physical strength through the empowering of the Holy Spirit.

Samson was the fourteenth judge of Israel.

Judges 15:20

And he judged Israel twenty years in the days of the Philistines.

Here are some highlights of his life:

SAMSON'S UNUSUAL ANOINTING

We see that the Holy Spirit began to move Samson into His call.

Judges 13:24-25

24 So the woman bore a son and called his name Samson; and the child grew, and the LORD blessed him.

25 And the Spirit of the LORD began to move upon him at Mahaneh Dan between Zorah and Eshtaol.



The Lord blessed Samson as he grew up. God's hand was upon his life.

As we walk consecrated before God, the Holy Spirit moves us into our call and anointing.

The word 'move' in verse 25, means **to tap, beat regularly, to impel or agitate** (Strongs Concordance).

Do you sense the tapping, the regular beating, the impelling, even the stirring or agitating that comes from the Holy Spirit within you?

As Samson stepped into His call he began to recognize and operate in an unusual anointing of the Holy Spirit. By anointing we mean the presence and empowering of the Holy Spirit on a person enabling them to do what God wants done.

Samson's unusual anointing - We see the Holy Spirit working in an unusual way through Samson, by giving him supernatural physical strength. We don't see these same expressions in many others in the Bible.

- ✓ Killing a lion with bare hands (Judges 14:5-6)
- ✓ Killing thirty men singlehandedly at Ashkelon (Judges 14:19)
- ✓ Catching 300 foxes, putting a torch between each pair of tails, and setting them to destroy the Philistines fields, vineyards, olive groves (Judges 15:4-5)
- ✓ Attacking and killing a great number of the Philistines (Judges 15:8)
- ✓ Breaking free when he was tied with two new ropes (Judges 15:13-14)
- ✓ Killing a thousand Philistines with the jaw bone of a donkey (Judges 15:15)
- ✓ God supernaturally provided water for Samson from a hole in the ground (Judges 15:19)
- ✓ Uproots the gates of the city of Gaza and walks out of the city (Judges 16:3)
- ✓ Broke free when bound with seven fresh bowstrings (Judges 16:9)
- ✓ Broke free when bound with new ropes (Judges 16:12)
- ✓ Broke free when his hair was woven into the loom (fabric) and pinned to the wall (Judges 16:14)
- ✓ Pulled down an entire temple building killing about three thousand men and women (Judges 16:27-30)

THE ENTICEMENTS

While Samson had an amazing call on His life, had a wonderful childhood, experienced the moving of the Spirit and the supernatural empowering of the Holy Spirit, he had his weakness. **In Samson's case, his biggest weakness, was his love for foreign women.**



His first marriage, which failed, was to a Philistine woman. He fell in love and married a Philistine woman, against his parent's requests (Judges 14:1-7).

He visited a prostitute, a philistine, in Gaza (Judges 16:1).

He then fell in love and got involved with Delilah of Sorek, another Philistine lady (Judges 16:4).

And it was through Delilah, that the enemy, the Philistines, began to place enticements. The ultimate goal was to find the secret of his strength so they could weaken him and destroy him.

Judges 16:4

4 Afterward it happened that he loved a woman in the Valley of Sorek, whose name was Delilah.

5 And the lords of the Philistines came up to her and said to her, "Entice him, and find out where his great strength lies, and by what means we may overpower him, that we may bind him to afflict him; and every one of us will give you eleven hundred pieces of silver."

Today, each of us are people called by God, with an assignment (purpose) from God and anointed by God with the power of the Holy Spirit.

We must understand that there is an enemy, the devil, who seeks to stop us from fulfilling God's assignment for our lives. He wants to weaken us and rob us off our true strength.

The enemy's strategy is quite simple - attack us, place enticements in the areas of our weaknesses.

But we must be on our guard.

1 Peter 5:8,9

8 Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.

9 Resist him, steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same sufferings are experienced by your brotherhood in the world.

THE ENTRANCE

So Delilah goes about her task of determining the secret to Samson's strength, so she could get Samson handed over to the Philistine soldiers.



Three times she asks him.
Three times he lies to her.
The first two times he talks about being bound up hand and foot.
The third time he goes a little closer to his secret and points to his hair.
He seems unaware that Delilah is actually getting dangerously close to getting his secret.

He should have recognized that he is now in a very vulnerable place.
He should have recognized that Delilah is actually an agent of the Philistines and is out to betray him.

And yet, Samson seemed to be so blinded - blinded by his "love", his weakness for Delilah - that he kept going back to her.

And finally, she got what she wanted. Samson revealed his secret.

Judges 16:16-18

16 And it came to pass, when **she pestered him daily** with her words and pressed him, so that his soul was vexed to death,

17 that **he told her all his heart**, and said to her, "No razor has ever come upon my head, for I have been a Nazirite to God from my mother's womb. If I am shaven, then my strength will leave me, and I shall become weak, and be like any other man."

18 When Delilah saw that he had told her all his heart, she sent and called for the lords of the Philistines, saying, "Come up once more, for he has told me all his heart." So the lords of the Philistines came up to her and brought the money in their hand.

The enemy had an open door, an entrance in!

This is how the devil gains entrance into our lives.

The devil is persistent. The devil keeps coming back, attacking on the areas of our weaknesses.

1 Corinthians 10:12

Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall.

Yesterday's victory does not guarantee another victory today or tomorrow.
Each day's battle has to be fought and won.

THE LAP OF DELILAH

It is hard to imagine, that after Samson had actually revealed to Delilah, the secret of his strength, he would still go back to her. That he would still go lay his head in her lap and



fall asleep there. It was like laying his head out for the slaughter. This would be the last time he would lay his head in Delilah's lap!

Judges 16:19-21

20 Then she lulled him to sleep on her knees, and called for a man and had him shave off the seven locks of his head. Then she began to torment him, and his strength left him.

20 And she said, "The Philistines are upon you, Samson!" So he awoke from his sleep, and said, "I will go out as before, at other times, and shake myself free!" But he did not know that the LORD had departed from him.

21 Then the Philistines took him and put out his eyes, and brought him down to Gaza. They bound him with bronze fetters, and he became a grinder in the prison.

What a sad story! What a sad situation!

Samson has been so blinded that he did not know that his strength had been taken away and the LORD had departed from him.

We would like to use the "lap of Delilah" as a figure of speech and address how the enemy uses this to rob us off our true strength and forfeit the call, anointing and destiny God has for us.

The Lap of Delilah. This is a tragic place to be – we are in a place of spiritual “stupor”, asleep, and our spiritual strength is being drained out – and we do not realize it. We don’t know that it is happening!

This is how we end up sleeping in the "lap of Delilah":

THE LAP OF DELILAH - A PLACE OF COMPROMISE

We are using the word 'compromise' in a negative sense.

This is when we agree to cooperate when we should not cooperate.

This is when we agree to concede, yield or give in when we should not concede, yield or give in.

Samson's life of compromise, sadly, began early on in his life.

- It began when he chose to love and marry a philistine woman (Judges 14:1-7) - he was compromising a part of his Nazirite vow.
- His slide into compromise began when he chose to eat honey out of the dead carcass of the lion - polluted his family also with it (Judges 14:8-9). It seemed like a harmless thing, but he was compromising a part of his Nazirite vow.



- His slide into compromise went a little further when he visited a prostitute in Gaza, a Philistine (Judges 16:1).
- And finally, his slide into compromise went dangerously low, when he fell in love with Delilah of Sorek, another Philistine lady (Judges 16:4). Once again compromising a part of his Nazirite vow.

He had actually broken his Nazirite vow and had compromised on his place of consecration before God.

For some of us the lap of Delilah could be a place of Compromise
We are trying to walk the middle ground of pleasing God and pleasing self.
We are trying to walk the middle ground of pleasing God and pleasing the world.

Compromise - it is the enemy's way to rob you of your consecration before God.

Are you sleeping in "the lap of Delilah", through your compromise?

You said you would never touch alcohol - but you have now argued yourself into a place where you say, just one drink at a business meeting is OK...
You said you would never watch porn again - but now you allow yourself little glances here and there and tell yourself it is OK...
You said you would never lie - but you cover up a few things here and there at work, and you convince yourself that it is alright because it really does not have huge impact....

Are there other things that are slowly weakening your CONSECRATION before God through COMPROMISE?

Beware of the "lap of Delilah", the lulling into sleep getting you ready for the kill.
Beware of compromise!

Yet God was working through him, in spite of him, and not because of him. Just because God is still working through you, does not mean everything is OK. We need to take an honest look at our consecration to God.

THE LAP OF DELILAH - A PLACE OF COMPLACENCY

The online Cambridge Dictionary defines '*complacency*' as '*a feeling of calm satisfaction with your own abilities or situation that prevents you from trying harder*'.
We come to place of self-satisfaction, self-approval, etc... that we are unwilling to better ourselves.



When we are complacent we become **unaware** of what is coming up before us - the dangers, the need for action, etc.

When we are complacent we become so self-absorbed, that we become **unresponsive** to the challenges staring us in the face.

Samson was so deeply in love with Delilah, he was completely blinded by his love, to the point where it seemed all reason left him.

Here was a woman who was openly and blatantly after his secret.

He should have learnt from the mistake he made with his first wife, when he had given away the secret of the riddle to her during the wedding celebrations (Judges 14:10-18).

Samson should have learnt from the first three attempts Delilah made that she was getting dangerously close to his secret.

Perhaps Samson had become so confident of escaping from the Philistines the first three attempts, he thought he would continue to have the same success, no matter what.

He just continued to go back to a woman who was after his destruction.

He fell into the trap of becoming complacent about his consecration, his call and the anointing on his life!

Compromise moves us out of our consecration to God.

Complacency puts us in a place of vulnerability before the devil.

Complacency!

Lethargy has set in and it seems ok to you!

The way things are seem to be just fine. There is no passion to press for more!

You used to take time to read the Word, but now the Word is not important to you anymore.

You used to make time to pray, but now prayer is an afterthought, not a passion any more.

Giving sacrificially for the work of God used to be a joy. Now giving even out of your abundance seems to happen so reluctantly.

Sometimes we are **blinded** in our place of complacency, as Samson was.

Often we have **good excuses** to protect our complacency.

Sometimes our **self-deception** that we are OK, when actually we are not OK, keep us in the place of complacency.

It could be our **lethargy**, our not willing to press in for more, that keeps us complacent.

Isaiah 64:7

And there is no one who calls on Your name, Who stirs himself up to take hold of You;



We must stir ourselves up to take a hold of God.

Beware of the "lap of Delilah", the lulling into sleep getting you ready for the kill.
Beware of complacency.

THE LAP OF DELILAH - A PLACE OF CARELESSNESS

To be careless means that we are not being cautious, not paying enough attention, we are letting our guard down.

Samson had finally revealed his one last secret...his one last thing that held his place of consecration...that as a Nazirite he had never cut his hair.

It was careless for Samson to go back to Delilah and lay his head down in her lap, after he had revealed his secret.

That last night in Delilah's lap was fatal!

Compromise moves us out of our consecration to God.

Complacency puts us in a place of vulnerability before the devil.

Carelessness could prove our downfall.

Carelessness is when we throw all caution to the wind.

Carelessness is when we don't pay attention to the basics, the foundational truths by which we stand.

One final act of carelessness, can ruin your life!

THE MERCY OF GOD

The Philistines imprisoned Samson, took out both his eyes and made him work to grind corn. In time his hair grew back. One day Samson was brought before all the lords of the Philistines who were celebrating in the temple of their god Dagon. And in that temple, his one final cry to God was to help him bring the temple down. God in his mercy helped him do that.

What an epitaph! (pronounced *eh·puh·taaf*)

Judges 16:30

"...So the dead that he killed at his death were more than he had killed in his life."

While this morning's message may serve as a warning to some of us to keep us from "the lap of Delilah", for others we wish to declare God's mercy.



If there is any one of amongst us who may have already given in to "the lap of Delilah" in our lives - today can be a time of restoration and realignment to God's purposes. We do not have to wait till the last moment. God is a God of mercy, and He will restore, realign, and rebuild.

CONCLUSION

Samson is an example of unfulfilled potential.

God did use Samson mightily; but God used Samson despite his sin, not because of it. It is fair to suppose that God may have used Samson in a far greater way if he made himself a clean vessel

One can only imagine what would have happened, if he lived true to his calling, living a life of consecration and yielding to the anointing of the Spirit.

As believers we should beware of getting into

a place of compromise

a place of complacency

a place of carelessness

This can rob us off our consecration to God, and cause us to forfeit our calling, anointing and destiny, or cause us to live far below God's highest and best.

As believers we must guard our place of consecration and anointing before God, and avoid compromise, complacency and carelessness in our walk with God.

MINISTRY TIME | SALVATION CALL

WT will sing the Song: Give us clean hand, Give us pure hearts (Chris Tomlin)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fm1L3wDfPKQ>



LIFE GROUP STUDY GUIDE

Sunday August 18, 2019
The Lap Of Delilah

The is a simple guide for use in Life Group discussions. Our objective is to focus on the application of the Sunday sermon - how each one is becoming a doer of the Word and building their life on God's Holy Word. The Life Group meeting would normally last for 2 hours. Each Life Group would have up to 12-15 people.

Preparation

To prepare for the Life Group meeting, you can listen to the Sermon Key Points (sermon summary in five minutes) or the full length Sunday sermon. You can also review the Sunday Sermon notes. All these are available in the "All Peoples Church Bangalore" mobile App or online at apcwo.org/sermons . Pray for the Life Group meeting and invite the work and ministry of the Holy Spirit.

Welcome

The Life Group meeting may commence with a time of prayer, worship and a fun activity.

LISTEN to God's Word

Read the following Scripture passages: *Review the life of Samson in Judges chapters 13-16*

INVESTIGATE God's Word Together

Please discuss a few of these together, giving time for people to share their insights. We encourage each one individually to make notes of their personal learning during the Group discussion.

1, God has a call on each of our lives and gives us His anointing to fulfill that call. What He desires of us is consecration - a life lived in devotion to Him. But "the lap of Delilah", compromise, complacency and carelessness, can rob us of our consecration to God and eventually of God's highest and best for our lives.

A) Discuss what compromise, complacency and carelessness could look like, in your life?

B) How do we guard ourselves from falling asleep in "the lap of Delilah" - falling into compromise, complacency and carelessness?

If time permits, each one takes a few (3 minutes max) to share one or two key learning and how they see themselves applying it into their specific life situations. Encourage each one to participate and share.



FELLOWSHIP by sharing your life and spiritual journey

Each one takes a few (3 minutes max) to share anything from their walk with God, something God has been teaching them, a testimony of answered prayer or a specific challenge that they would like prayer for. Encourage each one to participate and share.

ENCOURAGE each other by praying and ministering to one another

Get into small groups of two or three and take turns to thank God and pray for each other in the light of what was learnt today. Listen to the Holy Spirit. Expect the gifts of the Holy Spirit to flow bringing healing, releasing miracles, prophecy, etc.

Regroup and pray together for:

1, families to be protected and strengthened

2, a mighty outpouring of God's Holy Spirit on us as a church and through us to bless many others in our city and nation. Nothing but a mighty work of God's Spirit can change our city and nation.

3, for the BUILD TO IMPACT project - for God's hand to guide us through the land search and acquisition process, and for finances to be more than enough to get this project done.

Close by thanking God together.



USEFUL RESOURCES



Watch our online Sunday Church service live stream every Sunday at 10:30am (Indian Time, GMT+5:30). Spirit filled, anointed worship, Word and ministry for healing, miracles, and deliverance.

YOUTUBE: <https://youtube.com/allpeopleschurchbangalore>

WEBSITE: <https://apcwo.org/live>

Our other websites and free resources:

CHURCH: <https://apcwo.org>

FREE SERMONS: <https://apcwo.org/resources/sermons>

FREE BOOKS: <https://apcwo.org/books/english>

DAILY DEVOTIONALS: <https://apcwo.org/resources/daily-devotional>

JESUS CHRIST: <https://examiningjesus.com>

BIBLE COLLEGE: <https://apcbiblecollege.org>

E-LEARNING: <https://apcbiblecollege.org/elearn>

WEEKEND SCHOOLS: <https://apcwo.org/ministries/weekend-schools>

COUNSELING: <https://chrysalislife.org>

MUSIC: <https://apcmusic.org>

MINISTERS FELLOWSHIP: <https://pamfi.org>

CHURCH APP: <https://apcwo.org/app>

CHURCHES: <https://apcwo.org/ministries/churches>

WORLD MISSIONS: <https://apcworldmissions.org>