



SEQUIM COMMUNITY CHURCH
WOMEN OF THE BIBLE
January 10, 2017

Delilah

BEAUTY AND THE STRONGMAN

What could one woman do that the entire Philistine army could not? Subdue the strongest man who ever lived, that's what. Samson, the Israelite judge blessed with enormous strength, had wreaked havoc on the Philistines for years. He had killed over 1,000 Philistine warriors at one time with the jawbone of a donkey. Fortunately for the Philistines Samson had a weakness. He loved Philistine women---especially Delilah. She was offered a lot of money to uncover the secret to Samson's strength which she did---his hair which she cut. Without his strength Samson was captured. Samson eventually toppled the temple to Dragon killing thousands including himself.

Read Judges 13:1-5, 24-25; 14:5-6;15:3-8; 16:1-3, 18-21 & 28-30

Small Group Opener:

How do you determine who you can really trust? _____

MAIN BIBLE STUDY:

Please read the verses and answer the following questions.

1. What weaknesses do you find in Samson's life as described in the verses listed below:

- Judges 15:3 _____
- Judges 15:4-5 _____
- Judges 15:6-8 _____
- Judges 16:1-3 _____

2. Perhaps Samson's greatest weakness was his pride: Read Proverbs 21:24. What are some other vices (sins) that we should seek to avoid? _____

Now read the following passages and note the vice/sin that we should seek to avoid in our lives

- Psalm 10:4 _____
- Psalm 73:6 _____
- Proverbs 16:18 _____

3. Perhaps Samson struggled with pride because he lead a uniquely blessed life from conception. Jot down the unique aspects of Samson's life recorded in these verses.

- Judges 13:2-5 _____
- Judges 13:24-25 _____
- Judges 14:5-6 _____

Now read Judges 16:18-21. What happened? _____

Finally, read Judges 16:28-30. How did God answer Samson's prayer? _____

4. Now let's read Delilah's story in Judges 16:4-20. According to the following passages, what weaknesses (sins) did Delilah demonstrate?

- Judges 16:5-6 _____
- Judges 16:9-10 _____
- Judges 16:15-16 _____
- Judges 16:18 _____

5. As we've already noted in Judges 15:7, Samson was often depicted as taking revenge for one wrong or another. Could Delilah have been seeking revenge too - against the Philistines perhaps, or men who had used her in the past? _____

What are some possibilities that might have suited her personality and station in life? _____

Now read Leviticus 19:18 and Romans 12:19. According to these verses, has human revenge ever been appropriate? Why or why not? _____

Read Nahum 1:2-3, then write down all the adjectives that describe a holy avenger: _____

In light of that, read Judges 13:5; 14:4 & 16:28. Is it possible God planned to use Samson all along to enact His righteous revenge against the Philistines? _____

What clues do these three verses give you that such might be the case? _____

Going Further

Consider Delilah's motives for a moment by looking deep inside her heart. What do you see there? An angry woman? A hurt child? A deserted wife? A greedy harlot? Think of all the ways you might describe her, based on the scriptural story and your own experiences as a woman.

1. Though the following words from the prophet Isaiah were spoken to the nation of Israel, note how Isaiah 30:12-13 apply to Delilah's story: _____

2. In Isaiah 30:15, the prophet suggests a more redemptive solution...if we change our behavior. What does the Lord ask us to do? _____

- Of the phrases mentioned there, which one might be the hardest for you to do...and why?
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3. It all comes down to a matter of trust. What does Isaiah 26:4 assure us? _____

What do you need to trust God to handle in your life right now? _____

4. Now let's "follow the money." How much do you suppose the huge financial reward influenced Delilah's decision to deceive Samson? _____

- What additional motivation might have driven her to take scissors in hand?
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5. Some scholars have seen an interesting parallel between Delilah and Judas of the New Testament who betrayed Jesus. Read the following verses, noting the similarities and differences in the stories of these two traitors.

What Judas did

What Delilah did

Matthew 26:14 _____

Matthew 26:15 _____

Matthew 26:16 _____

Mark 14:43 _____

Mark 14:44 _____

Mark 14:45 _____

6. Though both of these greedy people betrayed someone close to them for the sake of money, God ordained that these deeds would take place for the sake of His Kingdom. Read Judges 16:27-30. Again, whose will was accomplished? _____

- Have you ever been influenced to take a job by the desire for monetary gain (not the need to provide)? _____ If so, what did you learn from that experience? _____

7. What wisdom does 1 Peter 1:18-19 provide for handling such temptations? _____

8. Why was Samson so easily deceived? _____
Was that Delilah's fault or his? _____

- Read I Corinthians 3:18. It cautions us to be aware of our own self-deception. Where are the blind spots in your own life where you tend to see only what you want to see? _____
