

Pint Size Parables

www.glowingnose.com

Samson

READ Judges 13 to 17

Sin is not a popular topic today, but it is terrifically important to address. Not only can it lead to our downfall, but also it can drive a deep wedge between God and us. Samson and Delilah gives us a clear look into temptation, weakness, and the ultimate secret of strength: obedience to God.

First of all, look at the passage at 14:5. As the family is going to get Samson a bride, he rips a lion apart with his bare hands! Now talk about a confidence booster before you ask someone to marry you!

From there it shifts to one of the saddest stories in the Bible. This man is constantly tricked and seeking revenge for the wrongs done to him and his country. Some may disagree with his seeking revenge, but we must keep in mind the statement made by the angel in chapter 13 that this was all supposed to happen so that the rule of the evil Philistines would crumble. Even in the downfall of a strong man, the purposes of God are executed.

The most familiar section of the story is when Samson is tricked into giving up the secret of his strength. Delilah asks several times how to disarm him, and ties him up repeatedly, trying to see if the weaknesses are true. Samson knows that he is being tempted; yet he plays around with sin! When she ties him up you'd think he'd take it as a sign that she is up to no good. But he doesn't!

Samson allows himself to be tempted again and again! How often we do that to ourselves! But God is not honored by how many times we resist temptation; He is only interested in our obedience. In other words, it is silly to set yourself up for temptation just so you can try to resist it. God commands us to flee from temptation, not to bring it on to prove how strong we are! Samson did not flee and it led to his downfall.

Bad company corrupts good character. Samson continually falls for the wrong kind of girl, which leads to trouble. Many of us have these kinds of people around who seem to always get us into bad situations. We need to learn from Samson's example and cut these people out of our lives before they bring us down. In Matthew 5:29 Jesus tells us to pluck out our eyes if they cause us to sin. Shouldn't we be able to get out of the influence of bad friends?

The lesson for today is to be on the lookout for those Delilah's in our lives that trick us into sinning. Then we need to hold fast to the rules that the Lord has given us about how

we are supposed to live, because, with them, we function properly. Without them we become weak and grow further from the Lord.

Questions:

- 1) What/who is the Delilah in your life?
- 2) What stumbling blocks does this person or thing put in front of you?
- 3) What can you do to cut these out of your life?
- 4) Jesus is supposed to be our Lord if we are to be saved. That means that we have to be obedient to Him. What do you think about that? Does the Bible seem like a book of rules to you, or guidelines to obedience? How obedient are you?
- 5) Is there someone you can confess your sins and hang-ups to?