

# THE BOOK OF JUDGES

ISRAEL IN THE TIME OF THE JUDGES  
1380-1050 B.C.

JUDGES CHAPTER 14:1-20

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THE TITLE OF THE MESSAGE:

## “STAYING FIT FOR THE MASTER’S USE” LESSONS IN KNOWING GOD

*ISRAEL DURING THE PERIOD OF THE JUDGES AND THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A NATION*

### Part 5

SUBJECT TOPICALLY REFERENCED UNDER:

Discipleship, Consecration, Devotion, Dedication

Introduction to the Text:

**Judges 14:1-20**

### Statement of Textual Summation and Theme

A Series on “The Consecration of the Believer”  
and What the Lord Desires to Do in the Lives of His People.

## STAYING FIT FOR THE MASTER’S USE LESSONS IN KNOWING GOD

**Romans 15:4**

For whatever things were written before were written for our learning, that we through the patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope.

**Proverbs 2:1-5,16**

My son, if you receive my words, And treasure my commands within you, **2** So that you incline your ear to wisdom, *And* apply your heart to understanding; **3** Yes, if you cry out for discernment, *And* lift up your voice for understanding, **4** If you seek her as silver, And search for her as *for* hidden treasures; **5** Then you will understand the fear of the LORD, And find the knowledge of God. **16** To deliver you from the immoral woman, From the seductress *who* flatters with her words,

## STAYING FIT FOR THE MASTER’S USE LESSONS IN KNOWING GOD

1.) Lesson 1 - Consecration: **what’s at stake**

2.) Lesson 2 - Consecration: **having ears to hear**

3.) Lesson 3 - Consecration: **being where He is**

4.) Lesson 4 - Consecration: **obeying Him**

5.) Lesson 5 - Consecration: The **“Self Control”** Exercise

6.) Lesson 6 - Consecration: The **“Be Wise”** Rule

## STAYING FIT FOR THE MASTER’S USE LESSONS IN KNOWING GOD

7.) Lesson 7 – Consecration: The **“Power Play”** Move

### The Power Play of **Manipulation**

Manipulation is an all too common ploy in our world.

Bosses manipulate employees, politicians manipulating the people, husband’s and wives manipulating one another, children manipulating parents.

**Manipulation** may possibly be the most cunning and devilish power play that Satan has in his arsenal. It certainly is “second nature” to every human being! From Genesis to now...

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 Samson said to them: **“If you had not plowed with my heifer, You would not have solved my riddle!”** 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, 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.

## STAYING FIT FOR THE MASTER’S USE IDENTIFYING **THE POWER PLAY MOVE**

7a.) **Manipulation: it’s an attempt to undermine**

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.”**

### **An Attempt to Undermine**

What does manipulation sound like?

You hate me don’t you / if you loved me / if you really cared...

When someone is seeking to manipulate you they are attempting to undermine who you are, and what you stand for.

## People Who Are Insecure Are Often Those Who Seek to Manipulate . . .

Manipulators Must Be Seen as Better, Bigger, more Important.

### Proverbs 29:25

The fear of man brings a snare, But whoever trusts in the LORD shall be safe.

One of the Greatest Threats to Our Current World is . . .

the independent, critically thinking Christian mind.

**Whenever Someone Comes Along and threatens you, pressures you, pushes you,**

know that they are coming at you because they are afraid of what you are and represent. – This is motive behind persecution!

## Christian, This is What You're To Do

**Wake Up to the Fact that Jesus Christ is Your Lord and Savior.**

### 1 Corinthians 6:20

For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's.

### Galatians 5:25

If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.

## STAYING FIT FOR THE MASTER'S USE

### IDENTIFYING THE POWER PLAY MOVE

#### 7b.) Manipulation: it's an attempt to overthrow

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 Samson said to them: "***If you had not plowed with my heifer, You would not have solved my riddle!***"

### An Attempt to Overthrow

Did you know that what Delilah is Doing is Biblical?

It's Biblically Recorded That This Would Be A Problem...

### Genesis 3:16

To the woman He said: "I will greatly multiply your sorrow and your conception; In pain you shall bring forth children; Your **desire shall be** for your husband, (to control, be over, to seize his position) And he shall rule over you."

### Ephesians 5:23

For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the Savior of the body.

## Christian, This is What You're To Do

## Lead like Jesus Led

### Ephesians 5:19-29

speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord, **20** giving thanks always for all things to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, **21** submitting to one another in the fear of God. **22** Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. **23** For the husband is head of the wife, as also Christ is head of the church; and He is the Savior of the body. **24** Therefore, just as the church is subject to Christ, so *let* the wives *be* to their own husbands in everything. **25** Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her, **26** that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word, **27** that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish. **28** So husbands ought to love their own wives as their own bodies; he who loves his wife loves himself. **29** For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as the Lord *does* the church.

Jack, It seems a little bit slanted

in favor of the woman, the wife. That's because the wife will reflect the treatment, the heart, the voice of her husband - if she's not, she's more than likely resisting.

The Wife is a Reflector of the Husband.

Bitter wife, **rude** husband / **insecure** wife, **unfaithful** husband,  
sweet wife, **complimentary** husband / **secure** wife, **faithful** husband.

## STAYING FIT FOR THE MASTER'S USE IDENTIFYING THE POWER PLAY MOVE

### 7c.) Manipulation: it's an attempt to control

**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, 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.

Words are the usual "weapons of choice" when it comes to seeking to control someone.

**16** ... "**You only hate me!** (*I'm all alone in this big ole' world Sammy*)

**You don't love me!** (*I'm neglected by you*), **You have posed a riddle to the sons of my people, but you have not explained it to me.**" (*you love your buddies more than me*).

### Proverbs 6:20-28

My son, keep your father's command, And do not forsake the law of your mother. **21** Bind them continually upon your heart; Tie them around your neck. **22** When you roam, they will lead you; When you sleep, they will keep you; And *when* you awake, they will speak with you. **23** For the commandment *is* a lamp, And the law a light; Reproofs of instruction *are* the way of life, **24** To keep you from the evil woman, From the flattering tongue of a seductress. **25** Do not lust after her beauty in your heart, Nor let her allure you with her eyelids. **26** For by means of a harlot *A man is reduced* to a crust of bread; And an adulteress will prey upon his precious life. **27** Can a man take fire to his bosom, And his clothes not be burned? **28** Can one walk on hot coals, And his feet not be seared?

## Christian, This is What You're To Do

### 2 Timothy 2:22-23

**Flee** also youthful lusts...

**23** But **avoid** foolish and ignorant disputes, knowing that they generate strife.

The Lord had Decreed Judgment Against The Philistines.  
Samson was to be the Judge of Israel to bring it about.

## The LORD is Getting the Job Done In Spite of Samson's Help.

1 Thessalonians 4:3-5

It is God's will that you should be sanctified: that you should avoid sexual immorality; 4 that each of you should learn to control his own body in a way that is holy and honorable, 5 not in passionate lust like the heathen, who do not know God;

### STAYING FIT FOR THE MASTER'S USE IDENTIFYING THE POWER PLAY MOVE

7d.) Manipulation: it's an attempt to dominate

20 And Samson's wife was given to his companion, who had been his best man.

#### Manipulations Goal - Domination

To take over and to dominate, manipulation unchecked leads to tyranny.

You and I are either being dominated by human manipulation, or we are being led by God.

1 Timothy 4:1-2

Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons, 2 speaking lies in hypocrisy, having their own conscience seared with a hot iron,

Cults are Perfect at This. Can you think of any cult or cults that seek to intimidate, manipulate, or dominate by hate, fear and threats?

That's Manipulation!

Christian, This is What You're To Do

We Need the Mind of the Holy Spirit to Fully Combat Manipulation

1 Corinthians 12:10

to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another discerning of spirits,

A God-given ability to look into the motives of another  
To be given the ability to see behind the issue or the threat or the information

### STAYING FIT FOR THE MASTER'S USE IDENTIFYING THE POWER PLAY MOVE

7e.) Manipulation: it's an attempt to destroy

15 Delilah chooses to "destroy" Samson  
rather than take a stand for him - she's a manipulator!

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?”**

**Entice** פתח pathah, paw-thaw’; to open wide, to make room for with the intent to destroy = to allure, deceive, to flatter, to be silly.

## **Our Enemies Know How to Use the Manipulation Card**

### **Satan is a Skilled and Master Manipulator**

#### **Genesis 3:1-5**

Now the serpent was more cunning than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said to the woman, **“Has God indeed said, ‘You shall not eat of every tree of the garden?’”** 2 And the woman said to the serpent, “We may eat the fruit of the trees of the garden; 3 but of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God has said, “You shall not eat it, nor shall you touch it, lest you die.’ ” 4 Then the serpent said to the woman, **“You will not surely die. 5 For God knows (Satan has no clue of what God knows) that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.”**

## **In Our Day, he’s Back and he’s Desperate, and he’s Smart**

**1 John 2:18** Little children, it is the last hour; and as you have heard that the Antichrist is coming, even now many antichrists have come, by which we know that it is the last hour.

#### **From NLT – 2 Timothy 3:1-4**

You should also know this, Timothy, that in the last days there will be very difficult times. 2 For people will love only themselves and their money. They will be boastful and proud, scoffing at God, disobedient to their parents, and ungrateful. They will consider nothing sacred. 3 They will be unloving and unforgiving; they will slander others and have no self-control; they will be cruel and have no interest in what is good. 4 They will betray their friends, be reckless, be puffed up with pride, and love pleasure rather than God.

#### **Can You Identify These Days in Which You Live In?**

I have never seen the **World** in the condition that it is tonight.

I have never seen **America** in the condition that it is tonight.

I have never seen **Europe** in the condition that it is tonight.

I have never seen **Asia** in the condition that it is tonight.

I have never seen **South America** in the condition that it is tonight.

## **Christian, This is What You’re To Do**

**Get Your Ears Ready**

*End of Study*