

THE BOOK OF JUDGES

ISRAEL IN THE TIME OF THE JUDGES

1380-1050 B.C.

JUDGES CHAPTER 16:1-7

Media Reference Number WN-478 - - MAY 28, 2008

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 7

SUBJECT TOPICALLY REFERENCED UNDER:

Discipleship, Consecration, Devotion, Dedication

Introduction to the Text;

Judges 16:1-7

Statement of Textual Summation and Theme

A Series on “Consecration to God”

STAYING FIT FOR THE MASTER’S USE

LESSONS IN KNOWING GOD

Giving Yourself to God

“I love the very nature and character of Our God,
The Lord God of the Bible, YHWH is Inviting.”

:1 Now (or then – kjv) Samson went to Gaza and saw a harlot there, and went in to her. :2 *When the Gazites were told, “**Samson has come here!**” they surrounded the place and lay in wait for him all night at the gate of the city. They were quiet all night, saying, “**In the morning, when it is daylight, we will kill him.**”*

1. not knowing how much time has passed, Samson goes to Gaza.
2. and here we go again, Samson has selective vision – girls !
3. the men waited to attack... but then verse 3 happens!

:3 And Samson lay *low* till midnight; then he arose at midnight, took hold of the doors of the gate of the city and the two gateposts, pulled them up, bar and all, put *them* on his shoulders, and carried them to the top of the hill that faces Hebron.

Samson's the catch of the day, bound, under guard, and chained

He walks away with the Strongest Part of the City – It's Gates !

:4 Afterward it happened that he **loved** a woman **in the Valley of Sorek**, (*the valley of the choice red grape*) whose name was **Delilah**. (*to make poor, to steal*)

He shouldn't be falling in love with a pagan woman. – remember why?
(because believers are not to marry unbelievers)

2 Corinthians 6:14-16

Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers. For what fellowship has righteousness with lawlessness? And what communion has light with darkness? :15 And what accord has Christ with Belial? Or what part has a believer with an unbeliever? :16 And what agreement has the temple of God with idols? For you are the temple of the living God.

He shouldn't be in this valley – remember why? (he was a nazarite)

:4 Afterward it happened that he **loved** a woman **in the Valley of Sorek**,
(*the valley of the choice red grape*)

He shouldn't be with a Delilah – why?

(her name means **one who robs** or **makes another poor**)

**There Are Some Places That
Christians Have No Business Going To.**

1 Corinthians 10:13-14

No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God *is* faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear *it*. :14 Therefore, my beloved, flee from idolatry.

: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."

Entice

to delude, allure, deceive, flatter, to be silly...

“...and every one of us will give you money.”

Proverbs 6:20-29

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? :29 So *is* he who goes in to his neighbor's wife; Whoever touches her shall not be innocent.

:6 So (without delay) Delilah said to Samson, *“Please tell me where your great strength lies, and with what you may be bound to afflict you.”*

SOMETHING JUST DOESN'T SOUND RIGHT HERE

I have been doing baby dedications for about 18 years now and I have never come across a Delilah.

I've never met a Delilah by name before.

:7 And Samson said to her, “If they bind me with seven fresh bowstrings, not yet dried, *then I shall become weak, and be like any other man.*”

Christian, listen. Samson had all the strength in the world, but became powerless when he flirted with sin.

then I shall become weak, and be like any other man.

then I shall become weak, and be like any other man.

then I shall become weak, and be like any other man.

then I shall become weak, and be like any other man.

STAYING FIT FOR THE MASTER'S USE LESSONS IN KNOWING GOD

9.) Lesson 9 – Consecration: Giving Yourself to God

**Samson Seems to Fumble
from One Victory to Another Defeat.**

his name appears 36 times in the bible, not always in a good light,
not always in a bad way...

Yet The Last Mention of His Name is What Matters...

Hebrews 11:32

And what more shall I say? For the time would fail me to tell of Gideon and Barak and Samson and Jephthah, also of David and Samuel and the prophets:

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.

GIVING YOURSELF TO GOD

9a.) Know the value of who you really are

the value of human life is paramount in scripture.

**THE TRUTH IS;
THE GREATER THE UNDERSTANDING WE HAVE OF GOD,
THE GREATER SELF-WORTH YOU'LL POSSESS.**

Genesis 1:27

So God created man in His *own image*;
in the **image** of God He created him; **male** and **female** He created them.

he made us having his moral likeness.
and he made us different enough to recreate

John 17:23

I in them, and You in Me; that they may be made perfect in one, and that the world may know that
You have sent Me, **and have loved them as You have loved Me. –**
THE SAME magnitude OF LOVE

the uniqueness of the human being
...and then there's "you" !

the very specific "fingerprints" of God are upon you, for:

You're Worth Having:

1 Corinthians 6:19

Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit *who is* in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own?

You're Worth Keeping:

John 10:27-29

My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me. :28 And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand. :29 My Father, who has given *them* to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch *them* out of My Father's hand.

You're Worth Knowing:

Psalms 139:1-5,14-17

O LORD, you have searched me and you know me. :2 You know when I sit and when I rise; you perceive my thoughts from afar. :3 You discern my going out and my lying down; you are familiar with all my ways. :4 Before a word is on my tongue you know it completely, O LORD. :5 You hem me in — behind and before; you have laid your hand upon me.... :14 I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well. :15 My frame was not hidden from you when I was made in the secret place. When I was woven together in the depths of the earth, :16 your eyes saw my unformed body. All the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be. :17 How precious to me are your thoughts, O God! How vast is the sum of them!

You're Worth Loving:

Romans 8:37

Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who *loved us*.

Ephesians 2:4-5

But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He *loved us*, :5 even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved),

Ephesians 5:2

And walk in love, as Christ also has *loved us* and given Himself for us,

2 Thessalonians 2:16

Now may our Lord Jesus Christ Himself and God our Father, who has *loved us* and given us eternal comfort and good hope by grace,

1 John 4:19

We love Him because He first *loved us*.

Revelation 1:5

and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler over the kings of the earth. To Him who *loved us* and washed us from our sins in His own blood,

GIVING YOURSELF TO GOD

9b.) Picking your friends carefully

you will gravitate toward those who “**look**” like you.
and I don’t mean physically.

**HOW THEY “LOOK AT LIFE”
WILL AFFECT YOUR VISION & ATTITUDE**

Proverbs 1:10

My son, if sinners entice you, Do not consent.

GIVING YOURSELF TO GOD

9c.) Having a worthy goal in sight

2 Chronicles 34:33

Thus Josiah removed all the abominations from all the country that *belonged* to the children of Israel, and made all who were present in Israel diligently serve the LORD their God. All his days they did not depart from following the LORD God of their fathers.

1 Corinthians 9:24-26

Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but only one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may win. **:25** And everyone who competes in the games exercises self-control in all things. They then do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable. **:26** Therefore I run in such a way, as not without aim; I box in such a way, as not beating the air;

As a Christian
our standards & performance ought to be the very best.

1. start with a goal that’s “just bigger” than you.
2. then move to the “next” goal.
3. and “then” the next goal.

don’t settle for something common, rather “use” what’s common as a stepping stone.

HOW DO I SET A GOAL FOR MY LIFE?

- (1) determine what your interests are
- (2) ask God to confirm that interest from His Word
- (3) pray asking Him for the opportunity to do that thing
- (4) prioritize it in your life
- (5) develop it to the best ability possible
- (6) use it to the glory of God and not yourself

KEEPING YOURSELF FOR GOD

9d.) Expecting your plans to be opposed

things that are “different” are misunderstood in life.

we are fighting a spiritual enemy, very
ancient, very wise !
recognize “where” to keep yourself in life.

GIVING YOURSELF TO GOD

9e.) Keeping the Bible as your guide

but “how” does the word of God become my guide?

have you ever **marinated** meat?

it's the immersion, the soaking,
the saturating part that heightens the taste,

Psalm 51:6

Behold, You desire truth in the inward parts, And in the hidden *part* You will make me to know
wisdom.

BUT HOW DOES THAT HAPPEN?

Psalm 119:11

Your word I have hidden in my heart, That I might not sin against You.

what can I expect if I stand on the Bible?

Psalm 119:105

Your word *is* a lamp to my feet And a light to my path.

————— *End of Study* —————