

# THE BOOK OF JUDGES

ISRAEL IN THE TIME OF THE JUDGES

1380-1050 B.C.

## JUDGES CHAPTER 16:8-20

Media Reference Number WN-479 - - JULY 2, 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 8

**SUBJECT TOPICALLY REFERENCED UNDER:**

**Discipleship, Consecration, Devotion, Dedication**

**Introduction to the Text;**

**Judges 16:8-20**

**Statement of Textual Summation and Theme**

A Series on “Consecration to God”

**STAYING FIT FOR THE MASTER’S USE**

**LESSONS IN KNOWING GOD**

**Getting Closer To The Lord**

**We Left Off with Samson** Meeting and Falling in Love with **Delilah**  
(whose name means **expensive**, costly, **to take away**, to make poor.)

She had been offered money by her philistine countrymen  
to find out what was the secret to his great strength – the secret !

# STAYING FIT FOR THE MASTER'S USE

## LESSONS IN KNOWING GOD

### 10.) Lesson 10 – Consecration: Staying Close to The Lord

#### STAYING CLOSE TO THE LORD

##### 10a.) Means that we keep ourselves away from evil

:8 So the lords of the Philistines brought up to her seven **fresh bowstrings**, not yet dried, and she bound him with them. :9 Now *men* were lying in wait, staying with her in the room. And she said to him, "The Philistines *are* upon you, Samson!" But he broke the bowstrings as a strand of yarn breaks when it touches fire. So the secret of his strength was not known. :10 Then Delilah said to Samson, "Look, you have mocked me and told me lies. Now, please tell me what you may be bound with."

#### The Stage was Set back in verse 7...

##### Judges 16:7

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."

Sammy, why are you even talking about this stuff?  
leave the girl alone, run while you can Sam –

### "See Sam Run"

Can Sam Run? Will Sam Run? Run Sam Run"

##### 2 Timothy 2:22

**Flee** also youthful lusts; but pursue righteousness,

**Flee** φεύγω pheugo, *fyoo'-go*; to become a fugitive,  
to escape and to be on the run.

we have all seen it.

and maybe you're watching it happen to someone you know now. they've yielded to the **strings** and now sin is being woven around them like a spiders web.

"how could she ruin her life this way?" "why would he leave his family"?

if this is you – just know that there is no excuse that God will accept. your attempt to “make right” your wrong or any effort to “make it o.k.” to you or others is literally the final steps to destruction. – it’s a lie of deception

## What Are We To Do Against Those Strings?

**1 Timothy 4:8**

For bodily **exercise (to strive, to sweat)** profits a little, but godliness is profitable for all things,

**Acts 24:16**

This *being* so, I myself always **strive (to exercise, to sweat)** to have a conscience without offense toward God and men.

**1 Timothy 4:7**

Reject profane and old wives’ fables, and **exercise (to strive, to sweat)** yourself toward godliness.

## The Greatest Way to Avoid Evil – Is to Love God More Than Sin, More than My Carnal Appetites

### What Does It mean to “Stay Close to God?”

**Matthew 5:6**

*Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, For they shall be filled.*

### What Proves that I am Close to God?

**Matthew 5:3**

*“Blessed are the poor in spirit, For theirs is the kingdom of heaven.*

### Can I get Closer to God even More ?

**Matthew 5:8**

*Blessed are the pure in heart, For they shall see God.*

### How Do I Begin to Get Closer to the Lord ?

**Matthew 6:33**

*But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.*

Of Course, staying close to God means that we love Him.

*no one wants to be with someone that they don’t care about or want to get to know.*

you want to be around those who you can relate to,  
those who you share something in common.

**the mark of a true Christian – a “for real” Christian  
is this desire to be with the Lord at all times and in all things !**

**Judges 16:7**

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

**what power could a little string have against God's man?**

(it's not the physical strength that the temptation possesses, it's the power that's hiding “behind” the temptation, not the string – satanic powers.

**we allow the “evil-power” to come in on the string,**

through the money, through the chat-room, through the offer, through the web.

**it always - only takes a little string to trip us up  
what sin are we stringing along in our lives?**

how close can I get to the things of this world?

(music, entertainment, lifestyle, amusement, rewards, prestige...)

so many good men have

gone down in flames because they refused to fight.

**2 Timothy 2:3-4**

You therefore must endure hardship as a good soldier of Jesus Christ. :4 No one engaged in warfare entangles himself with the affairs of *this* life,

**flirting with the string**

begins a series of unfortunate events that need not happen. we “let” the temptation tie the sin around our necks like a knot.

**Proverbs 6:23-32**

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. :30 *People* do not despise a thief If he steals to satisfy himself when he is starving. :31 Yet *when* he is found, he must restore sevenfold; He may have to give up all the substance of his house. :32 Whoever commits adultery with a woman lacks understanding; He *who* does so destroys his own soul.

### Proverbs 7:6-27

I was looking out the window of my house one day :7 and saw a simpleminded young man who lacked common sense. :8 He was crossing the street near the house of an immoral woman. He was strolling down the path by her house :9 at twilight, as the day was fading, as the dark of night set in. :10 The woman approached him, dressed seductively and sly of heart. :11 She was the brash, rebellious type who never stays at home. :12 She is often seen in the streets and markets, soliciting at every corner. :13 ¶ She threw her arms around him and kissed him, and with a brazen look she said, :14 “I’ve offered my sacrifices and just finished my vows. :15 It’s you I was looking for! I came out to find you, and here you are! :16 My bed is spread with colored sheets of finest linen imported from Egypt. :17 I’ve perfumed my bed with myrrh, aloes, and cinnamon. :18 Come, let’s drink our fill of love until morning. Let’s enjoy each other’s caresses, :19 for my husband is not home. He’s away on a long trip. :20 He has taken a wallet full of money with him, and he won’t return until later in the month.” :21 ¶ So she seduced him with her pretty speech. With her flattery she enticed him. :22 He followed her at once, like an ox going to the slaughter or like a trapped stag, :23 awaiting the arrow that would pierce its heart. He was like a bird flying into a snare, little knowing it would cost him his life. :24 ¶ Listen to me, my sons, and pay attention to my words. :25 Don’t let your hearts stray away toward her. Don’t wander down her wayward path. :26 For she has been the ruin of many; numerous men have been her victims. :27 Her house is the road to the grave. Her bedroom is the den of death.

:11 So he said to her, “If they bind me securely with **new ropes** that have never been used, *then I shall become weak, and be like any other man.*” :12 Therefore Delilah took new ropes and bound him with them, and said to him, “The Philistines are upon you, Samson!” And *men were* lying in wait, staying in the room. But he broke them off his arms like a thread. :13 Delilah said to Samson, “Until now you have mocked me and told me lies. Tell me what you may be bound with.” And he said to her, “If you weave the **seven locks of my head** into the web of the loom” - -

## He’s Flirting with Satan Here

### Hebrews 3:12-13

Beware, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief in departing from the living God; :13 but exhort one another daily, while it is called “Today,” lest any of you be hardened through **the deceitfulness of sin.**

### 1 Corinthians 10:12-14a

Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall. :13 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

## STAYING CLOSE TO THE LORD

### 10b.) Means we’ve got to apply ourselves toward good

:14 So she wove it tightly with the batten of the loom, and said to him, “The Philistines are upon you, Samson!” But he awoke from his sleep, and pulled out the batten and the web from the loom. :15 Then she said to him, “How can you say, ‘I love you,’ when your heart is not with me? You have mocked me these three times, and have not told me where your great strength lies.”

## Samson Has Always Walked to Close to The Line

as a nazirite, he was not to touch anything dead – he plays with a dead lion.  
he wasn't supposed to be near wine or grapes, raisins – he goes to the valley of the red grapes

## We Combat This By Moving Toward the Lord

Note That Samson Failed to Defend Righteousness

He Didn't Stand Up Against the Evil **Delilah**

we need something to stand for that's greater than ourselves.

!!! There's no greater stand than to stand for God !!!

### NASB Version 2 Corinthians 13:5

Test yourselves to see if you are in the faith; examine yourselves! Or do you not recognize this about yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you — unless indeed you fail the test?

### John 15:1-4

"I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser. :2 Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit He takes away; and every *branch* that bears fruit He prunes, that it may bear more fruit. :3 You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you. :4 **Abide** in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it **abides** in the vine, neither can you, unless you **abide** in Me.

### John 15:7

If you **abide** in Me, and My words **abide** in you,  
you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you.

Samson Has Always Walked to Close to The Line

can you think of something or someone who's your **Delilah**

## STAYING CLOSE TO THE LORD

**10c.) Means we do as He has commanded us**

: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, (someone kill me – please) :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 Nazarite 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.*"

### Numbers 6:7-8

He shall not make himself unclean for his father, or for his mother, for his brother, or for his sister, when they die: because the **consecration of his God is upon his head**. :8 All the days of his separation he is holy unto the LORD.

# It Was His "Glory" - He Wore His Relationship Upon His Head Ours Is In Our Hearts

**Ezekiel 36:26**

I will give you a **new heart** and put a new spirit within you; I will take the heart of stone out of your flesh and give you a heart of flesh.

**"If I am shaven, then my strength will leave me."**

The Vow Will Be Broken, I'll No Longer Be Connected to God

: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.

He's not **bumped** because she's **tempting** him.

He's not **hurt** because she's turned out to be a **tramp**.

He's not **grieved** because she's playing a game **against** His God.

## He's Sick of Hearing About It - that's all

## He's Become Desensitized

I inherited my mom's portuguese feet. they callous very easily. my mother rarely ever wore shoes. and if she had to, she would wear flip flops...

because of all that - I would only wear shoes at school or at work, never at home or on the weekends  
- bare foot ! Because of the Dead Skin - Nothing Bothered my Feet

# The Human Heart is the Same Way

## STAYING CLOSE TO THE LORD

**10d.) Means we can enjoy the ride to the finish**

:19 Then she lulled (yah-shean - to eased, to slip into) 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.**

**Jeremiah 2:19**

Your own wickedness will correct you, And your backslidings will rebuke you. Know therefore and see that *it is* an evil and bitter *thing* That you have forsaken the LORD your God, And the fear of Me *is* not in you,” Says the Lord GOD of hosts.

## Stop Right There !

like Samson, you and I have the Spirit of God in Us.

Nothing in This Story Has Changed  
It's the same **God**. It's the same human **nature**. It's the same **evil**

**The Weakest Link is Not the Lord**  
**The Weakest Link is Not the Evil**  
**The Weakest Link is Us**

## This is Why We Need the Lord

**Acts 1:5,8**

for John truly baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.” :8 But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”

**This was spoken to believers – they had already been born again,**

**John 20:21-22**

So Jesus said to them again, “Peace to you! As the Father has sent Me, I also send you.” :22 And when He had said this, He breathed on *them*, and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit.

*The End of The Study*