

Don't Compromise

Judges 16:4-6, 13-21

This Week's Focus

Sin makes you stupid. If we are honest, we have all found ourselves doing and saying things we never would have thought we would do or say because of the power of sin. Perhaps the worst mistake someone can make is to think it sin not a big deal. It is a dangerous proposition not to take temptation seriously—this is what led Samson to compromise the mission God had given him, endangering the people of Israel God had raised Samson up to protect.

Samson's desire for Delilah so overtook him that he was unable to think clearly and he made decisions that were destructive to both himself and God's people. The mission God has given us is too precious and too important to compromise it for the fleeting pleasures of sin.

Judges 16:4-6, 13-21



Begin by reading
the passage
through two times.

4 Some time later, he fell in love with a woman named Delilah, who lived in the Sorek Valley. **5** The Philistine leaders went to her and said, "Persuade him to tell you where his great strength comes from, so we can overpower him, tie him up, and make him helpless. Each of us will then give you 1,100 pieces of silver." **6** So Delilah said to Samson, "Please tell me, where does your great strength come from? How could someone tie you up and make you helpless?"

13 Then Delilah said to Samson, "You have mocked me all along and told me lies! Tell me how you can be tied up." He told her, "If you weave the seven braids on my head with the web of a loom—" **14** She fastened the braids with a pin and called to him, "Samson, the Philistines are here!" He awoke from his sleep and pulled out the pin, with the loom and the web. **15** "How can you say, 'I love you,'" she told him, "when your heart is not with me? This is the third time you have mocked me and not told me what makes your strength so great!" **16** Because she nagged him day after day and pleaded with him until she wore him out, **17** he told her the whole truth and said to her, "My hair has never been cut, because I am a Nazirite to God from birth. If I am shaved, my strength will leave me, and I will become weak and be like any other man." **18** When Delilah realized that he had told her the whole truth, she sent this message to the Philistine leaders: "Come one more time, for he has told me the whole truth." The Philistine leaders came to her and brought the money with them. **19** Then she let him fall asleep on her lap and called a man to shave off the seven braids on his head. In this way, she made him helpless, and his strength left him. **20** Then she cried, "Samson, the Philistines are here!" When he awoke from his sleep, he said, "I will escape as I did before and shake myself free." But he did not know that the LORD had left him. **21** The Philistines seized him and gouged out his eyes. They brought him down to Gaza and bound him with bronze shackles, and he was forced to grind grain in the prison.

Do you think compromise is a good thing or a bad thing? Explain.

When was the last time you compromised on something? What things can we not afford to compromise on?

The Story of Samson

Samson assumed he was accountable to no one for his life. But instead of living happily ever after, he became a broken man. At the end he was redeemed only by his self-conscious brokenness in the last act of his life, when tragedy became triumph and self-gratification became self-sacrifice.

Context

What do you know about Samson (see Judg. 13:24-25)? What was the purpose of his Nazarite vow?

What made Samson worthy to serve as a judge for the nation of Israel (see Judg. 14:6; 15:14-16)?

Judges 16:4-6

What did the Philistines want? What did Delilah want? What methods did they use to get what they wanted?

What pressures are you facing that may compromise the mission God has given you? How can we grow to be more aware of the pressures around us?

Judges 16:13-21

What tactics did Delilah use to influence Samson (v. 15)? How does this relate to the tactics Satan uses to tempt us?

Did Samson have any reason to trust Delilah? Why did he give in (v. 16)?

What were the consequences of Samson's compromise (vv. 19, 21)?

What spiritual ramifications did Samson's actions have (v. 20)? Why do you think Samson was not aware that the Lord had left him?

Central Truth

The mission God has given us requires fighting temptation and uprooting sin.

Now What?

What are some of the key areas where you are tempted to give into sin? How can we guard against spiritual compromise in these areas of our lives?

Why might temptation be particularly difficult to overcome in the context of dating? How should this change the way you approach such relationships?

Do you have a plan for fighting the sin in your life? For overcoming temptation? If not, journal a plan now and make plans to share it with a trusted friend this week.

How might focusing our time, energy, and resources on the mission God has given us help us achieve victory over sin?

Personal Challenge

Dwell: Read 1 Corinthians 10:12-14. Have you identified the means of escape God provides when you face temptation? How might knowing that God provides an escape give you confidence in your fight against sin? What idols or potential idols might you need to flee from this week? Journal your answers to these questions.

Memorize: Judges 17:6

Pray: Thank God for promising to always provide us a means of escape when face temptation. Thank Him also for Jesus, who, though He was without sin, became sin for us so that we might become the righteousness of God (2 Cor. 5:21). Pray that God would help you to see that fighting sin is essential to living on mission for Christ. Pray that God would help you and your group to determine to put the sin in your lives to death for the purpose of pointing others to Christ.

Keep on Digging

Read each of the following verses and journal what each says about temptation and how you might overcome it.

- Luke 4:1-13; 22:40
- James 1:13-18
- 1 Corinthians 10:6-14