



SAMSON WAS AN INCREDIBLY STRONG MAN WITH A DANGEROUSLY WEAK WILL

The Nazirite Vow (Numbers 6)

- ❖ No drinking of alcohol
- ❖ No touching of a dead body
- ❖ No cutting of hair

THE NAZIRITE VOW WAS GOD'S WAY OF TEACHING SAMSON BOUNDARIES

ATTITUDES THAT MAKE STRONG MEN WEAK

LUST: I WANT IT

Judges 14:1-3 Samson went down to Timnah and saw there a young Philistine woman. ² When he returned, he said to his father and mother, "I have seen a Philistine woman in Timnah; **now get her for me as my wife.**" ³ His father and mother replied, "Isn't there an acceptable woman among your relatives or among all our people? Must you go to the uncircumcised Philistines to get a wife?" But Samson said to his father, "Get her for me. She's the right one for me."

Deuteronomy 7:3-4 Do not intermarry with them. Do not give your daughters to their sons or take their daughters for your sons, ⁴ for they will turn your children away from following me to serve other gods...

Judges 3:6 They took their daughters in marriage and gave their own daughters to their sons, and served their gods.

2 Corinthians 6:14-15 Do not be yoked together with unbelievers. For what do righteousness and wickedness have in common? Or what fellowship can light have with darkness? ¹⁵ What harmony is there between Christ and Belial? What does a believer have in common with an unbeliever?

HOW TO KEEP THE "I WANT IT" ATTITUDE FROM LEADING YOU ASTRAY:

1. Stay away from dangerous places

(vs. 1) Samson went **down to Timnah** and saw there a young Philistine woman.

2. Be open to wise counsel

(vs. 3a) **His father and mother replied**, “Isn’t there an acceptable woman among your relatives or among all our people?”

3. Submit to God's Word

(vs. 3b) Must you go to the **uncircumcised Philistines** to get a wife?” But Samson said to his father, “Get her for me. She’s the right one for me.”

Judges 14:4 His parents did not know that this was from the LORD, who was seeking an occasion to confront the Philistines; for at that time they were ruling over Israel.

ENTITLEMENT: I DESERVE IT

Judges 14:5-9 Samson went down to Timnah together with his father and mother. As they approached the vineyards of Timnah, suddenly a young lion came roaring toward him. ⁶The Spirit of the LORD came upon him in power so that he tore the lion apart with his bare hands as he might have torn a young goat. But he told neither his father nor his mother what he had done. ⁷Then he went down and talked with the woman, and he liked her. ⁸Some time later, when he went back to marry her, **he turned aside** to look at the lion’s carcass. In it was a swarm of bees and some honey, ⁹which he scooped out with his hands and ate as he went along. When he rejoined his parents, he gave them some, and they too ate it. But he did not tell them that he had taken the honey from the lion’s carcass.

PRIDE: I CAN HANDLE IT

Judges 14:10 Now his father went down to see the woman. And Samson made a **feast** there, as was customary for bridegrooms.

feast = Hebrew word *mishteh* = a celebration or occasion for drinking.

Judges 14:11-20 When he appeared, he was given thirty companions. ¹²“Let me tell you a riddle,” Samson said to them. “If you can give me the answer within the seven days of the feast, I will give you thirty linen garments and thirty sets of clothes. ¹³If you can’t tell me the answer, you must give me thirty linen garments and thirty sets of clothes.” “Tell us your riddle,” they said. “Let’s hear it.” ¹⁴He replied, “Out of the eater, something to eat; out of the strong, something sweet.” ¹⁷On the seventh day he finally told her, because she continued to press him. She in turn explained the riddle to her people. ¹⁸Before sunset on the seventh day the men of the town said to him, “What is sweeter than honey? What is stronger than a lion?” Samson said to them, “If you had not plowed with my heifer, you would not have solved my riddle.” ¹⁹Then the Spirit of the LORD came upon him in power. He went down to Ashkelon, struck down thirty of their men, stripped them of their belongings and gave their clothes to those who had explained the riddle. Burning with anger, he went up to his father’s house. ²⁰And Samson’s wife was given to the friend who had attended him at his wedding.

THE ATTITUDE THAT MAKES WEAK MEN STRONG

Proverbs 3:5-6 Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; ⁶in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.