

**THE LIFE OF SAMSON**  
**PART 2–HOW TO MAKE A BAD DECISION**  
**JUDGES 14:1-4**

**Introduction**

Last time, we began to look at the life of SAMSON and we saw how that SAMSON'S life was largely A WASTED LIFE because:

- 1) He didn't recognize the **SERIOUSNESS OF THE TIMES** in which he lived,
- 2) He failed to **LEARN** from the **SPIRITUAL INFLUENCES** GOD placed around him, and
- 3) He didn't let the **HOLY SPIRIT** fully accomplish **HIS DIVINE work** in his life.

In our text here, we see SAMSON clearly making some **BAD DECISIONS**. Hopefully, by looking at this, we can **LEARN** from his life **WHAT NOT TO DO** when it comes to **DECISION MAKING!**

Now we know that **OUR LIVES** are made up of many **DIFFERENT DECISIONS!** **DECISIONS** we are called to make may **AFFECT OUR LIVES** either **GREATLY** or **not very much at all!** I do know that if we make a **HABIT** of using **GODLY, BIBLICAL PRINCIPLES** in our **DAILY DECISION MAKING**, our lives are more likely to be impacted in **POSITIVE** ways rather than **NEGATIVE** ways!

While many **DECISIONS** we are called to make may have little to no impact on our lives, occasionally we are faced with making a **DECISION** that could literally impact the very course of our lives. I'm talking about one where making a **RIGHT CHOICE** could lead to **UNPARALLELED OPPORTUNITY TO PLEASE THE LORD**, while making the **WRONG CHOICE** could lead to **WASTE** and even **DESTRUCTION** in our lives as we fail to **CONSIDER** the things we should in light of the **PRINCIPLES** we find in **SCRIPTURE**.

When we develop a habit of **CHOOSING WISELY** out of a heart's **DESIRE TO PLEASE GOD** in the daily regular decisions we make; we are in a much better position to make the **RIGHT CHOICES** when the major, life changing **DECISIONS** come along.

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If we want to avoid **WASTING OUR LIVES**, as SAMSON did, we must be **COMMITTED TO MAKING CAREFUL, WISE DECISIONS!** To do that we need to **DEVELOP GOOD HABITS** when it comes to **MAKING CHOICES** in our lives, because **EVERY CHOICE** comes with a **SET OF CONSEQUENCES**. We can **CHOOSE TO DO WRONG**, but we can't **CHOOSE** what the **CONSEQUENCES** of our **WRONG DECISIONS** will be!

Before we address the first three verses we just read, we really need to consider **verse 4** first. Some have misinterpreted this as **GOD'S STAMP OF APPROVAL** upon SAMSON'S **DECISIONS**. However, nothing could be further from the truth.

SAMSON could have **CHOSEN TO DO RIGHT**, but he didn't. Just because **GOD USED HIS POOR CHOICES**, we **MUST NOT ASSUME** that **GOD APPROVED OF HIS CHOICES!**

After all, **GOD IS SOVEREIGN!** That means that **NOTHING WILL FRUSTRATE HIS PURPOSES!** (i.e. **HIS PURPOSES WILL BE ACCOMPLISHED!**)

If we don't let **HIM ACCOMPLISH HIS PURPOSES** through a life that is **SUBMITTED TO HIS WILL**, **HE** may choose to **ACCOMPLISH HIS PURPOSES** by showing others the great hardship that comes to a person who doesn't **SUBMIT TO HIS WILL!**

Either way, **GOD'S PURPOSES** are going to be **ACCOMPLISHED!** The question isn't *"Is the LORD going to get HIS work done?"* But rather it is, *"What kind of instrument am I going to be in HIS HAND?"* We must **NEVER** assume that **GOD** excuses bad decisions!

So today as we consider SAMSON'S actions here in these verses, I want us to see **HOW TO MAKE A BAD DECISION** so that we can avoid doing such things ourselves!

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**I. SAMSON WENT TO PLACES WHERE HE SHOULD NOT HAVE GONE! (Vs 1a)**

**SAMSON** had no business going to **TIMNATH** to look at the daughters of the **PHILISTINES!**

**TIMNATH** was only a few miles away from where **SAMSON** and his parents lived. So, it would have been an easy walk, but **TIMNATH** was enemy territory.

At this time the **cruel, wicked, idolatrous PHILISTINES** occupied this city. These were the very people from whom **SAMSON** was supposed to be **DELIVERING** the **CHILDREN OF ISRAEL!**

If we want to **AVOID WASTING OUR LIFE** by making **WISE DECISIONS**, then there are certain places we just ought not to be!

***Psalm 1:1**–“Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful.”*

***2 Corinthians 6:17**–“Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you,”*

If we want to **AVOID** making **BAD DECISIONS**, we should not only **AVOID THE WRONG PLACES**, but we ought to **EMBRACE RIGHT PLACES!**

That means we should associate with and stay around those who are more likely to encourage us to make **GODLY DECISIONS!**  
(i.e. Church, Godly Christians)

*SAMSON WENT TO PLACES HE SHOULD NOT HAVE GONE!*

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**II. SAMSON ALLOWED HIMSELF TO BE CONTROLLED BY HIS LUSTS! (Vs 1b-2)**

There's no question about what attracted **SAMSON** to this woman...it was her looks.

***James 1:14-15**–“But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed. 15 Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death.”*

***1 John 2:16**–“For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world.”*

Does that mean that it is wrong to look at a beautiful woman or other beautiful things? **NO!**

But, if we look at someone or something in such a way that it compromises our relationship with the **LORD** or the **TRUTH OF SCRIPTURE**, then it is wrong!

When the **SERPENT** got **EVE** to looking at the fruit of the tree that **GOD** had forbidden them to eat of she **COVETED** it, and then took of it! It was her **LUSTS**, her **DESIRES** that got her into trouble. The same thing is true even in the lives of many **BELIEVERS!**

Many folks have violated **GOD’S PRINCIPLES** in their lives because they gave in to **THE LUST OF THEIR FLESH** and **THE LUST OF THEIR EYES!**

Many families have been destroyed because a husband or a wife gave in to the **LUST OF THE FLESH** and **LUST OF THE EYES!**

**BAD DECISIONS** are bound to be made when one gives in to the **LUST OF THE FLESH** and the **LUST OF THE EYES!**

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*SAMSON WENT TO PLACES HE SHOULD NOT HAVE GONE...  
ALLOWED HIMSELF TO BE CONTROLLED BY HIS LUSTS!*

**III. SAMSON SCORNE**D THE ADMONITION OF GOD’S WORD  
IN HIS LIFE! (Vs 3)

**SAMSON** went against the **GODLY COUNSEL** of **GOD’S WORD**  
here!

**A. SAMSON Desired To Do Something That Was Strictly  
Forbidden In The SCRIPTURE!**

Regarding **MARRYING THE HEATHEN**, **GOD’S WORD**  
says in *Deuteronomy 7:3*–“Neither shalt thou make  
marriages with them; thy daughter thou shalt not give unto  
his son, nor his daughter shalt thou take unto thy son.”

Why did **GOD** say this?

1. Because the **HEATHEN** had different gods. They  
didn’t serve the **LORD!**
2. Because the **HEATHEN** had **UNGODLY  
PRACTICES!** They did things that **BELIEVERS**  
had no business getting involved in.
3. Because **GOD** knew that the **HEATHEN  
INFLUENCE** would **CORRUPT HIS PEOPLE!**

Did you know that this **PRINCIPLE** still applies today?  
*2 Corinthians 6:14*–“Be ye not unequally yoked together with  
unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with  
unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with  
darkness?”

Why shouldn’t **BELIEVERS MARRY UNBELIEVERS?**  
There can be no **SPIRITUAL UNITY** in such a marriage!  
They can’t **WORSHIP** or **SERVE GOD** together!  
The **CHILDREN** will suffer in such a relationship!

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Someone might argue and say, “*But, I know so and so who  
married an unsaved person and that person accepted  
Christ.*”

That is only by the **GRACE OF GOD** and it is more often  
the exception than the rule! For every story of one like that,  
there are many others whose spouses did not get saved and  
they suffered greatly because of it!

You simply cannot violate the **WORD OF GOD** and  
**EXPECT GOD TO BLESS** your life!

**SAMSON** had a strong body, but **SPIRITUALLY  
SPEAKING**, he was a **WEAKLING HERE!**

*Proverbs 12:15*–“The way of a fool is right in his own eyes:  
but he that hearkeneth unto counsel is wise.”

*Proverbs 23:9*–“Speak not in the ears of a fool: for he will  
despise the wisdom of thy words.”

*Samson Desired To Do Something That Was Strictly  
Forbidden In The Scripture!*

**B. SAMSON Did Not Do Something That Was Required By  
The SCRIPTURE!**

**GOD’S LAW** told him he should have honored his parents.  
*Exodus 20:12*–“Honour thy father and thy mother: that thy  
days may be long upon the land which the **LORD** thy God  
giveth thee.”

But, **SAMSON** wouldn’t listen to his parents’ **GODLY  
COUNSEL** in this matter.

*Proverbs 15:5*–“A fool despiseth his father’s instruction: but  
he that regardeth reproof is prudent.”

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The admonition about **HONORING** our **PARENTS** is still applicable.

***Ephesians 6:1-4**– “Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right. 2 Honour thy father and mother; (which is the first commandment with promise;) 3 That it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth.”*

**Conclusion**

*Samson Went To Places Where He Should Not Have Gone!*

*Samson Allowed Himself To Be Controlled By His Lusts!*

*Samson Scorned The Admonition Of God’s Word In His Life.*

Some folks live their lives going from one bad decision to another.

Listen to me, we don’t have to commit every mistake in order to learn!

We can learn from the mistakes of others! That is if only we will!

The question is, are we going to learn from **SAMSON’S LIFE** or are we going to repeat his mistakes with the same or maybe even worse tragic consequences?

Determine right now that by **GOD’S GOOD GRACE** and with the **HELP** of **HIS HOLY SPIRIT** and the **WORD OF GOD**, you will make **WISE DECISIONS** in your life!

The wisest choice of all is to come to Christ in faith! Do you know Him? Have you placed your faith and trust in Christ’s finished work for your salvation? That is the right decision that can put you on a path to help you make other right decisions in your life! After that, the wisest choice for the believer it is to walk with God daily in obedience to His Word!