

LIFE OF SAMSON
PART 9—WHAT IS THE COST?
JUDGES 16:15-21

Introduction:

Most of us are conscious of the **COST** of items. This present economy has caused inflation to soar and many of us are more **cost** conscious than usual.

We compare the prices when we buy gasoline, groceries, and other items.

So the concept of **COST** consideration is not something that is foreign to us, because it is something we do all of the time...perhaps without even thinking much about it.

The **BIBLE** also talks about considering the **COST**.

Luke 14:28—“*For which of you, intending to build a tower, sitteth not down first, and counteth the cost, whether he have sufficient to finish it?*”

Of course, considering the **COST** should not just apply to building projects or the purchase of merchandise. We need to also consider the **COST OF OUR ACTIONS!**

If I consider taking a particular direction in my life or if I am faced with making a certain important decision in my life, I need to know—**What will be the COST? How will it impact my life? How will it impact the lives of others around me? What will it COST me? Will it COST me my testimony? Will it COST me my influence and effectiveness? Will it COST me my life?**

In our look at the life of **SAMSON**, we have discovered that he was primarily interested in the immediate fulfillment of his desires and he was very little concerned, if any, about the ultimate **COST** of his actions.

Our goal in these messages has been to learn some important lessons from the life of **SAMSON**, who largely wasted his life. Today the lesson to learn is simple: **CONSIDER THE COST OF YOUR ACTIONS!**

Read: Judges 16:15-21

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I. WHAT IS THE REAL TRAGEDY THAT WE SEE HERE?

A. The Real Tragedy Is NOT In What **DELILAH Did.**

1. Although that was heartbreaking.
2. **DELILAH** pressed **SAMSON** (nagged him) until he finally told her the secret of his strength.
3. Now we know that his strength really didn't lie in the length of his hair, it was the **POWER OF GOD** upon his life.
4. His hair length simply was a token of **GOD'S CALL** upon his life. (i.e. the Nazarite vow)
5. But we see that the woman he loved, sold him out.
6. Somehow **DELILAH** caused **SAMSON** to fall to sleep. Maybe she drugged him or got him drunk. Then she called for a man to come shave his head.

But, The Real Tragedy Is Not In What Delilah Did. . .

B. The Real Tragedy Is NOT In What The **PHILISTINES Did.**

1. The **PHILISTINES** conquered the mighty **SAMSON**.
2. We can imagine how much they wanted revenge for all of his boastful acts and his antagonistic behavior toward them. (About 20 years worth!)
3. And at this point they finally had the upper hand on him! They took him by force and literally bored out his eyes! They put him in chains! They harnessed to him a grinding wheel like a common beast of burden!

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But, The Real Tragedy Is Not In What The Philistines Did.

- C. The Real Tragedy Is What SAMSON Did To Himself!**
He set himself up for his own fall. He was convinced that the **PHILISTINES** could do nothing to him! He presumed that the **LORD** would always be with him in strength!

But *verse 20* says it all.

"...He wist not that the LORD had departed from him."

But really, who left who first? **SAMSON** had been heading down this road of self-destruction for a long while.

II. WE SEE THE HIGH COST OF SIN.

A. SIN Is BLINDING!

SAMSON was oblivious to what was happening in his life. But, ignorance is no excuse!

He had allowed himself to be **BLINDED** to the kind of people he surrounded himself with.

Have you ever tried to convince someone that they were hanging around with the wrong crowd? And then they looked at you like you were crazy!

The previous verses are crying out to **SAMSON**.

"Get out! Delilah isn't the one for you! She is manipulative ...she doesn't really love you...she is in this relationship for only what she can get out of it...run Samson run!"

But **SAMSON** couldn't see it until it was too late. **SAMSON** was **BLIND** way before the **PHILISTINES** gouged out his eyes! **How ironic is it that only after his eyes were gouged out that he was able to see!**

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SIN Is BLINDING...

B. SIN Is BINDING!

1. There are always **CONSEQUENCES** to our **SIN**! Because **SAMSON'S** previous sinful behavior went unchecked by him, he was at this point caught in the web of his own **SIN**!
2. We have talked about this before in others lives, but seldom do we find such a vivid picture as with the life of **SAMSON**.
3. Here he is now–**BLIND** and **BOUND**! Pitiful isn't he?
4. He is **BLIND**, **BOUND** and **HELPLESS**! Not because the **LORD** failed him, but because he failed the **LORD**!
5. The **WORD OF GOD** tells us that there is a point where if we are so determined to **GO OUR OWN WAY**...so determined to **FOLLOW AFTER SIN**... **GOD** will let us go!

***Romans 6:16**–“Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness?”*

6. **JAMES** warns us of the destructive progression of **SIN**, even in the life of a **BELIEVER**. ***James 1:14-15**–“But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed. Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death.”*

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SIN Is BLINDING, SIN Is BINDING. . .

C. SIN Is GRINDING!

1. The way of SIN is not easy!
2. Oh, it may appear to be fun and exciting, but it isn't easy at all.
3. As a matter of fact, the **BIBLE** declares that the way of a transgressor is **HARD!** (*Proverbs 13:15*)
4. There is a common saying when referring to someone who has lived a life of **SIN**.
"They look like they have been rode hard and put up wet!"
5. It simply means that it is obvious to the observer that **SIN** has taken a toll on that individual's life!
6. Don't think for a moment that we can somehow escape the **CONSEQUENCES OF SIN** in our lives!

SIN is BLINDING...SIN is BINDING...and SIN is GRINDING!

III. SO, WHAT IS THE LESSON?: (Two-fold)

A. CONSIDER The COST.

1. The **WORD OF GOD** instructs us to '*walk circumspectly*'.
Ephesians 5:15–“*See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise,*”
2. That means we must look around us and pay attention to how we are **WALKING** and where our steps are leading us.

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3. The failure of many **BELIEVERS** is that they just don't pay close enough attention to how they are **WALKING** and the resulting **CONSEQUENCES** that are sure to come.
4. We must **CONSIDER, BE PERCEPTIVE, PAY ATTENTION** and **THINK** about what our actions might **COST!**

B. CHOOSE To WALK WITH THE LORD!

1. Life is filled with **CHOICES!**
2. **SAMSON** is an example of one who made his **CHOICES** based on what he wanted without considering what the **LORD** would want.
3. The **LORD** will not force us to follow **HIM**, nor will **HE** force us to live for **HIM**.
4. The **CHOICE** is ours and we need to **CHOOSE** to live for **HIM!**
5. Those of us who have been **BORN AGAIN** still have the **CAPACITY TO SIN** and are **SUSCEPTIBLE TO TEMPTATION**.
6. That is going to be true until we get to **HEAVEN**, and are in our glorified bodies.
7. But the good news is that we have the **SPIRIT OF GOD** within us to **LEAD US** and **GUIDE US** into all **TRUTH**.

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8. However, if we **CHOOSE** to reject **GOD’S LEADING** and **GO OUR OWN WAY**...we will suffer the **CONSEQUENCES** of that **CHOICE!**

9. We can **CHOOSE TO SIN**, but remember, **WE CAN’T CHOOSE WHAT THE CONSEQUENCES ARE GOING TO BE!**

10. The lesson we should be learning is that it is far better for us to **CONSIDER THE COST** and **MAKE THE RIGHT CHOICES** rather than to **SUFFER THE CONSEQUENCES OF SIN!**
Galatians 6:7-8–"Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting."

Conclusion

AVOID THE TRAGEDY OF A WASTED LIFE!

CONSIDER THE COST OF SIN to you as well as to those around you!

Then, **CHOOSE THE WAY OF OBEDIENCE AND BLESSING!**