**Once Upon a Time…Samson had Super Strength**

Judges 16:4-31

**Judges 16:4 (ESV)**

After this he [Samson] loved a woman in the Valley of Sorek, whose name was Delilah.

**Judges 16:5 (ESV)**

And the lords of the Philistines came up to her and said to her, “Seduce him, and see where his great strength lies, and by what means we may overpower him, that we may bind him to humble him. And we will each give you 1,100 pieces of silver.”

**Ignoring God in any area of your life causes weakness in every area of your life.**

1. **The Patience of God**

**Judges 16:6 (ESV)**

So Delilah said to Samson, “Please tell me where your great strength lies, and how you might be bound, that one could subdue you.”

**Judges 16:7 (ESV)**

Samson said to her, “If they bind me with seven fresh bowstrings that have not been dried, then I shall become weak and be like any other man.”

**Judges 16:11 (ESV)**

And he said to her, “If they bind me with new ropes that have not been used, then I shall become weak and be like any other man.”

**Judges 16:13 (ESV)**

Then Delilah said to Samson, “Until now you have mocked me and told me lies. Tell me how you might be bound.” And he said to her, “If you weave the seven locks of my head with the web and fasten it tight with the pin, then I shall become weak and be like any other man.”

**Judges 16:14 (ESV)**

So while he slept, Delilah took the seven locks of his head and wove them into the web.[a] And she made them tight with the pin and said to him, “The Philistines are upon you, Samson!” But he awoke from his sleep and pulled away the pin, the loom, and the web.

**Psalm 103:8 (ESV)**

The Lord is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

1. **The Persistence of Satan**

**Judges 16:15 (ESV)**

And 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 you have not told me where your great strength lies.”

**Judges 16:16 (ESV)**

And when she pressed him hard with her words day after day, and urged him, his soul was vexed to death.

**Judges 16:17 (ESV)**

And he told her all his heart, and said to her, “A razor has never come upon my head, for I have been a Nazirite to God from my mother's womb. If my head is shaved, then my strength will leave me, and I shall become weak and be like any other man.”

**1 Corinthians 10:12 (ESV)**

Therefore let anyone who thinks that he stands take heed lest he fall.

1. **The Price of Sin**

**Judges 16:18 (ESV)**

When Delilah saw that he had told her all his heart, she sent and called the lords of the Philistines, saying, “Come up again, for he has told me all his heart.” Then the lords of the Philistines came up to her and brought the money in their hands.

**Judges 16:19 (ESV)**

She made him sleep on her knees. And she called a man and had him shave off the seven locks of his head. Then she began to torment him, and his strength left him.

**Judges 16:20 (ESV)**

And she said, “The Philistines are upon you, Samson!” And he awoke from his sleep and said, “I will go out as at other times and shake myself free.” But he did not know that the Lord had left him.

**Judges 16:21 (ESV)**

And the Philistines seized him and gouged out his eyes and brought him down to Gaza and bound him with bronze shackles. And he ground at the mill in the prison.

**Proverbs 25:28 (ESV)**

A man without self-control is like a city broken into and left without walls.

1. **The Possibility of Restoration**

**Judges 16:22 (ESV)**

But the hair of his head began to grow again after it had been shaved.

**Judges 16:28 (ESV)**

Then Samson called to the Lord and said, “O Lord God, please remember me and please strengthen me only this once, O God, that I may be avenged on the Philistines for my two eyes.”

**Judges 16:29 (ESV)**

And Samson grasped the two middle pillars on which the house rested, and he leaned his weight against them, his right hand on the one and his left hand on the other.

**Judges 16:30 (ESV)**

And Samson said, “Let me die with the Philistines.” Then he bowed with all his strength, and the house fell upon the lords and upon all the people who were in it. So the dead whom he killed at his death were more than those whom he had killed during his life.

**Judges 16:31 (ESV)**

Then his brothers and all his family came down and took him and brought him up and buried him between Zorah and Eshtaol in the tomb of Manoah his father. He had judged Israel twenty years.

**1 Corinthians 1:27 (ESV)**

But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong;

**1 Corinthians 1:28 (ESV)**

God chose what is low and despised in the world, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are,

**1 Corinthians 1:29 (ESV)**

So that no human being might boast in the presence of God.