

toward marriage with a girl from Israel, but Samson had other plans. Samson is impulsive, quick to anger and violent. These are obviously not great leadership qualities. What would you consider to be essential leadership qualities? List them here as you pray for God's guidance to be the type of leader God would want you to become as a follower of Jesus he Christ.

### Thursday, August 28

Read Judges 16:4-22. We finally meet Delilah. If you haven't looked it up Delilah means "delicate," "weak," or "languishing." In the biblical context, from the Book of Judges, Delilah is known for her relationship with Samson, the last of the judges of Israel. This association has led to the name sometimes carrying connotations of a seductive and treacherous woman. After reading the scripture and hearing the message from this past Sunday, what do you think of Delilah? Is she an enemy of God's people or an entrepreneur who is just trying to get by in life? Do you think Delilah wanted harm to come to Samson? Do you believe her to be a complete opportunist? Consider these questions and write your ideas here.

### Friday, August 29

What are the lessons from the Samson and Delilah saga? Is it not to trust those close to you? Not to cross cultural boundaries in your relationships? To do our best to be obedient to our God and the guidance offered through religious laws? Do you see the symbolism of Samson representing the nation of Israel? What other lessons can you see from this convoluted and tragic Biblical narrative? Consider these questions and write your thoughts here.

## Message Notes August 24, 2025

### *Women of the Bible - Delilah\**

- I. The name Delilah ranked the \_\_\_\_<sup>th</sup> most popular name in 2024. It has been in the top 100 names since \_\_\_\_\_.
  - A. It's possible that people are not aware of the \_\_\_\_\_ interpretation – or should I say misinterpretation – of the Delilah in our scriptures as the instrument of Judge Samson's \_\_\_\_\_.
  - B. Before looking more closely at Delilah, let's first consider the \_\_\_\_\_ in the narrative, \_\_\_\_\_.
    1. Samson is the \_\_\_\_\_ judge of Israel.
    2. The Judges were to be the keepers of the \_\_\_\_\_.
- II. Samson's first misstep is that he desired a \_\_\_\_\_ woman at Timnah.
  - A. Samson likes a good \_\_\_\_\_, so at the wedding her bets the wedding party that they can't solve a \_\_\_\_\_.
  - B. Remember that the Philistines and the Hebrew people are \_\_\_\_\_.
  - C. The Philistines pressure Samson's \_\_\_\_\_ to find out the solution to the \_\_\_\_\_.
  - D. Samson is ticked and he goes to a neighboring town and kills \_\_\_\_\_ men and takes their garments to pay off his bet.
  - E. Samson was completely OC! He is so \_\_\_\_\_!
- III. We're ready to meet Delilah. The nineteen \_\_\_\_\_ we've read for our scripture today is all we know about Delilah.
  - A. The context that Samson is the most \_\_\_\_\_ man by the Philistines is important.

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\*Judges 16:4-22

- B. Unlike so many women mentioned in the Bible, Delilah's \_\_\_\_\_ is not tied to a \_\_\_\_\_ – no father (or mother) or brothers, uncles, husband or sons is mentioned.
1. Many of us may have been taught that Delilah was a \_\_\_\_\_.
  2. There is no \_\_\_\_\_ evidence that Delilah is a \_\_\_\_\_.
- C. There are some who believe that Samson and Delilah were \_\_\_\_\_; she certainly is in a position to \_\_\_\_\_ Samson.
1. The \_\_\_\_\_ came to Delilah to ask her to coax Samson to tell her the source of his \_\_\_\_\_.
  2. Now Delilah is portrayed as a manipulative woman but I'd like to point out that three times she \_\_\_\_\_ him.

- IV. The tragedy of Samson's life is that he never seemed to understand his \_\_\_\_\_ in providing \_\_\_\_\_ for his people.
- A. The idea that Delilah was a \_\_\_\_\_, flirtatious woman who overpowers Samson with her \_\_\_\_\_ allure just doesn't hold water.
1. Barbara Essex writes, "In Delilah, we find an \_\_\_\_\_ woman."
  2. For the nation of Israel, Delilah's story is \_\_\_\_\_ of how that proud nation had \_\_\_\_\_.
- B. Delilah is just as \_\_\_\_\_ as the widows and orphans of her day
- C. Her life is the perfect reminder that we should \_\_\_\_\_ others unless you've walked a \_\_\_\_\_ in their \_\_\_\_\_, or in Delilah's case, \_\_\_\_\_.

## ***Daily Devotional Guide***

The following is a daily devotional and study guide meant to enhance your understanding of the message and grow as a Christian.

It is offered for your personal reflection or to share with others.

## **Monday, August 25**

Do you know anyone or have met anyone with the name Delilah? It hasn't been a very popular name over the past few decades but in the last few years (since 2018) Delilah has been in the top 100 hundred names for children born in those years. Do you have any preconceived notions about the name Delilah? What do you think when you hear the words "Samson and Delilah?" Do you know what the name Delilah means? Contemplate these questions and wrote your thoughts here.

## **Tuesday, August 26**

Read Judges 13:1-5. If you have time read the entire chapter, it's twenty-five verses long. It begins with the many rules by which Manoah and his wife shall teach their son, who is to be named Samson. To not eat anything that is unclean and not to drink "wine or strong drink." He is also never to let a razor touch his head and cut his hair. For the observance of these rules Samson will be the deliverer of Israelite people from the Philistine occupation. Some religious rules are meant to keep God's people safe while others are meant to demonstrate our love for and obedience to God. Have you heard of these rules? What other "Biblical rules" have you heard? What do you believe to be their purpose? How does obedience to these rules demonstrate our love of God? Meditate on these rules and write your reflections here.

## **Wednesday, August 27**

Read as much of Judges, chapters 14 and 15 as you can; it's 40 verses all together and reads quickly as a narrative of Samson's misspent life, from his marriage to a Philistine woman to the killing of a thousand men with the jawbone of a donkey. Samson is obviously a strong man, but his leadership qualities and integrity seem to be lacking. His parents tried to guide him