

Where Desires Lead Me Judges Pt 12

Ch 13 describes God's purpose for Samson (Dedicated to God / Deliverer of Israel)

Jdg 13:5 NLT You will become pregnant and give birth to a son, and his hair must never be cut. For **he will be dedicated to God** as a Nazirite from birth. **He will begin to rescue Israel from the Philistines.**

Jdg 14:1-4 NLT One day when Samson was in Timnah, one of the Philistine **women caught his eye**. 2 When he returned home, he told his father and mother, **"A young Philistine woman in Timnah caught my eye. I want to marry her. Get her for me."**

- **This desire became his focus & obsession → at the expense of his dedication to God**

What did brushing aside dedication to God look like? Vs 3 His father and mother objected. "Isn't there even one woman in our tribe or among all the Israelites you could marry?" they asked. "Why must you go to the pagan Philistines to find a wife?" But Samson told his father, **"Get her for me! She looks good to me."**

- (1) **He disregarded what God had to say → commanded to not intermarry**
- (2) **He disregarded the godly advice of his parents**
 - Prov 12:15 - The way of a fool is right in his own eyes, but a wise man listens to advice.

The pursuit of his own desire → set off a chain of events that ultimately led to his death

- (Vs 3 **Family conflict**).....(v5-9 **2nd Disregard God's command, honey carcass deception**).....(Vs 12-16 **Greed and manipulation**..... 30 sets of clothes -- **his wife manipulated him & sold him out**).....(Vs 19 **murder**...killed 30 men to get the 30 garments he owed).....(Vs 19-20 **Anger** – He was furious went back to mom and dad - His wife was given to the best man)

How Can We Avoid the Same Path as Samson

1) Recognize the source of your desire - there is a battle, let the Holy Spirit guide your life

- Gal 5:16-17 NLT So I say, let the Holy Spirit guide your lives. Then you won't be doing what your sinful nature craves. 17 The sinful nature wants to do evil, which is just the opposite of what the Spirit wants. And **the Spirit gives us desires that are the opposite of what the sinful nature desires**. These two forces are constantly fighting each other, so you are not free to carry out your good intentions.

2) God made us as people with desire - desire seeks satisfaction - He will satisfy with good things

- Psa 103:2-5 Praise the LORD, my soul, and forget not all his benefits 3 who forgives all your sins and heals all your diseases, 4 who redeems your life from the pit and crowns you with love and compassion, 5 who **satisfies your desires with good things** so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.

3) There is a process of Putting Off and Putting On

- Eph 4:22-24 You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being **corrupted by its deceitful desires**; 23 to be made new in the attitude of your minds; 24 and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.

4) Take delight in the LORD

- Psa 37:4 Take delight in the LORD, and he will give you your heart's **desires**.
 - **The Key → delight in Him**, He **reshapes our hearts** so our desires line up with His desires

Bottom line

- 1) **Our desires will seek to be satisfied**
- 2) **In that sense we are led by our desires. Satisfying our desires shapes our destiny**
- 3) **God satisfies desires WITH GOOD THINGS - He shapes our HEART to desire good things**
- 4) **So get us to this place →**
 - **Ps 73:25** - Whom have I in heaven but you? And there is nothing on earth that I desire besides you.