

The Here and Now

Regret: The piercing sorrow of pain associated with the loss of something valuable!

Judges 16:1 Then {Now (NKJV)} went Samson to Gaza, and saw there an harlot, and went in unto who.
2 And it was told the Gazites, saying, Samson is come hither. And they compassed him in, and laid wait for him all night in the gate of the city, and were quiet all the night, saying, In the morning, when it is day, we shall kill him.

- *That was Then this is Now!*

God is never impressed with past, He looks to the Present because it will be the foundation for your future!

- Samson had done mightily -BUT -*That was Then this is Now!*
- Samson slew his lions - BUT -*That was Then this is Now!*
- Samson set fire to his enemy's camp - BUT -*That was Then this is Now!*
- Samson slew his thousands - BUT -*That was Then this is Now!*
- Samson drank fresh water from God's well - BUT -*That was Then this is Now!*
- Samson walked in leadership before Israel for 20 years - BUT -*That was Then this is Now!*

- ◆ **Now** he is spending his time in places he shouldn't – the house of a harlot!
(The symbolism of a harlot is a direct reference to a life of sin)
- While he is there: His enemy lies in wait to ambush him
Be sure to know: That what you sow, you will reap!
That your sin will find you out!
That is you play with fire you will get burned!

Now he walked away from this one this time, but throughout the rest of the story,
you will see that his strength diminishes the longer he stays.

- ◆ Sin will...take you farther than you want to go!
... keep you longer than you want to stay!
... cost you more than you want to pay!

vs 4 *And it came to pass afterward, that he loved a woman in the valley of Sorek, whose name was Delilah.*

The devil has an agenda: steal, kill and destroy!

1. Vs.4 **The Devil knows: You'll be a prisoner to your passions-**
(*they will captivate you, you'll be their prisoner!*)
2. Vs. 6 **The devil probes your life to find your weaknesses!**
Vs.16 – *She pestered & pressed him daily until he was exhausted and gave in!*
3. Vs.19 – **The devil will attempt to lull you to sleep!**

20 Then she called, "Samson, the Philistines are upon you!" He awoke from his sleep and thought, "*I'll go out as before and shake myself free.*" **But he did not know that the LORD had left him.**

**We cannot live for ourselves, indulge our flesh, serve the world,
and still expect the anointing of God in our lives!**

Vs.21 Relates Sin's effects:

Blinds

Binds

Sets you Behind bars (Spiritually)

Vs.19 - The devil is two-faced. he offers one thing and does another.

Vs.24 – There is a demonic celebration at the fall of an anointed vessel.

Vs.25 – The enemy will make you a laughingstock

- ◆ God provided Samson's might through the anointing!
- ◆ What voice you listen to is the voice you will follow!
- ◆ The strength was not in the hair; the strength was in the vow (anointing that came through connection)!

Vs. 22 – ***However, the hair...began to grow again!***

> The relationship began to flourish again!

> Samson was getting a new start!

Vs.25 – **He was brought out of prison.**

> His captors wanted to make fun of him!

~ But God was working to position Samson for the plan of God!

Vs. 28 – **He cried out for strength to serve God!**

> He was impassioned to be used again!

Vs.30 – **He was once again used of God!**