

Recap of 9/10/17 (Judges 16:1-20):

1. Samson's effectiveness as a Judge can be seen in Judges 16 by the animosity of the Philistines toward him and their vigilance in keeping track of him.
2. Unfortunately Samson wasn't as vigilant when it came to his moral life. He trifles with sin. Desire makes him insensitive to the consequences of sin, making him willing to risk everything.
3. Four times Delilah attempts to learn the secret of his great strength. The first three are unsuccessful, but Samson, seemingly unaware of the reality of her intent, finally, reveals his secret. His strength was in his commitment to the Lord as a Nazirite, symbolized by his long hair. He took the Lord for granted, and took God's presence for granted.
4. "Samson thought playing with Delilah was a game. It turned out to be Russian roulette, and he bought the bullet. You cannot trifle with sin in your life. If you are like Samson, flirting with a Delilah, believing that you can keep sin in bounds, let me warn you that you are playing with a lion. You may stick your head in its mouth once and get away with it, even twice and three times. Samson did. But, one of these times, that lion will shut its mouth, and you will lose your head, once for all." (Gary Inrig)
5. "It is imperative to run away from temptation, not to trifle with it." (Harry Foster)
6. The lesson to us today is that we cannot toy with temptation or play with the idea of sin. We must think through the boundaries (or fences, or hedges) we need in our lives to keep us from falling. For starters, if married, never share intimate details of your life or marriage with another woman other than your wife, or another man other than your husband; except for work responsibilities, do not spend time alone with a man or woman who is not your husband or wife; if you become attracted to another person take positive steps to limit exposure to that person; be accountable to your spouse for your social media and the websites you visit. If single, build into your life God's view of sex and reject the philosophy of the world which says that sex is just another bodily function or need, no different from other needs, such as the need for food and water, and satisfying it outside of God's will is okay (I Corinthians 6). The poverty of that argument, in part, can be seen in that no one ever died for lack of sex, many have died for lack of food and water.