

# SMALL STEPS TOWARD BIG DESTRUCTION

## SAMSON, Part 3

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Pastor Ken Ritz \* July 1, 2012 \* New Life Vineyard Church

*Then God opened up the hollow place in Lehi, and water came out of it. When Samson drank, his strength returned and he revived. So the spring was called En Hakkore, and it is still there in Lehi. Samson led Israel for twenty years in the days of the Philistines.* Judges 15:19-20

### **Samson Didn't Ruin His Life All At Once: He Ruined It One Step At A Time.**

*One day Samson went to Gaza, where he saw a prostitute. He went in to spend the night with her. The people of Gaza were told, "Samson is here!" So they surrounded the place and lay in wait for him all night at the city gate. They made no move during the night, saying, "At dawn we'll kill him."* Judges 16:1-2

#### **SAMSON'S SMALL STEPS TOWARD DESTRUCTION**

##### **1. SAMSON \_\_\_\_\_ HIS ENEMY.**

*But Samson lay there only until the middle of the night. Then he got up and took hold of the doors of the city gate, together with the two posts, and tore them loose, bar and all. He lifted them to his shoulders and carried them to the top of the hill that faces Hebron.* Judges 16:3

*So, if you think you are standing firm, be careful that you don't fall!* 1 Corinthians 10:12

##### **2. SAMSON \_\_\_\_\_ THE SAME OLD SIN.**

*Some time later, he fell in love with a woman in the Valley of Sorek whose name was Delilah.* Judges 16:4

*The rulers of the Philistines went to [Delilah] and said, "See if you can lure him into showing you the secret of his great strength..."* Judges 16:5

*Having put him to sleep on her lap, she called a man to shave off the seven braids of his hair, and so began to subdue him. And his strength left him.* Judges 16:19

##### **3. SAMSON ASSUMED HIS DISOBEDIENCE WOULD NEVER \_\_\_\_\_ HIM.**

*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. Then the Philistines seized him, gouged out his eyes and took him down to Gaza. Binding him with bronze shackles, they set him to grinding in the prison.* Judges 16:20-21

*You may be sure that your sin will find you out.* Numbers 32:23

#### **WHERE ARE YOU STEPPING AWAY FROM GOD?**

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*But the hair on his head began to grow again after it had been shaved.* Judges 16:22

##### **"Homework"**

- What are some steps away from God that tend to get overlooked and aren't recognized as dangerous?
- Where are you stepping away from God?
- As you turn towards God, what are some of the first steps you'll need to take?