

# THE DEVIL'S SHEEP SHEARING PARTY

**TEXT:** *Judges 16:22: Howbeit the hair of his head began to grow again after he was shaven.*

**TOPIC:** A word of encouragement to Christians who have lost the anointing

God's children are likened in the Word of God to sheep whose Great Shepherd is the Lord Jesus Christ. He leads His sheep in green pastures and beside the still waters.

***John 10:3: To Him [Jesus] the porter openeth; and the sheep hear His Voice: and He calleth His Own sheep by name, and leadeth them out.***



Out! Out! Never forget it.

***John 10:4b: He goeth before them, and the sheep follow Him:***

**We become  
what we  
feed on.**

The quality and quantity of the wool on the sheep might be likened to our spiritual beauty and consecrated following of the Shepherd. We become what we feed on. He leads us to good pasture. Wool is given to God's sheep also for covering and for warmth. Sheep are very much ashamed when sheared and — like Peter — must run to the world's fires to get warm.

Some of you have allowed the devil to shear you, and tonight you are afraid that someone might notice you are trying to get back to the Lord. I see you are beginning to long for the Master and for the sheepfold. You remember those happy days before sin and compromise shaved your spiritual wool off. Think of it. You let your enemy — the devil — do the dirty work.

You are finding out by sad experience that the cup of the world is all froth. The devil's bread is all chaff. It chokes you, and you cannot endure it any longer. Having once enjoyed Christ and His fullness, we are no good to the world nor to ourselves unless we are walking with Him.

Samson had been set apart from his birth to be the champion of Israel, to break the power and the yoke of the Philistines who had lorded it over God's people.

Everything in his upbringing had reference to his peculiar calling as a hero. He was ordained of God to break the yoke of bondage, being a Nazarite from birth to do exploits for God by a miraculous birth:

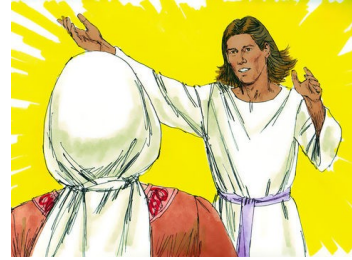
**Judges 13:2-5:**

***2 And there was a certain man of Zorah, of the family of the Danites, whose name was Manoah; and his wife was barren, and bare not.***

***3 And the Angel of the LORD appeared unto the woman, and said unto her, Behold now, thou art barren, and bearest not: but thou shalt conceive, and bear a son.***

***4 Now therefore beware, I pray thee, and drink not wine nor strong drink, and eat not any unclean thing:***

***5 For, lo, thou shalt conceive, and bear a son; and no razor shall come on his head: for the child shall be a Nazarite unto God from the womb: and he shall begin to deliver Israel out of the hand of the Philistines.***



Our re-birth is also miraculous:

***John 3:3: Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the Kingdom of God.***

He was moved upon of the Spirit:

***Romans 8:11: But if the Spirit of Him Who raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, He Who raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by His Spirit Who dwelleth in you.***

So is the child of God.

The Nazarite vow was upon him, the explanation of which is found in:

***Numbers 6:3a, 5:***

***3a He shall separate himself from wine and strong drink,***

***5 All the days of the vow of his separation there shall no razor come upon his head: until the days be fulfilled, in the which he separateth himself unto the Lord, he shall be holy, and shall let the locks of the hair of his head grow.***

Therefore, Samson wore long hair as the external evidence of his consecration to God, with a life holy, separated, and sanctified from the world. *“I pray not that*

*thou shouldst take them out of the world, but keep them from the evil that is in the world”,* prayed Jesus for His Church:

***John 17:15: I pray not that Thou shouldst take them out of the world, but that Thou shouldst keep them from the evil.***

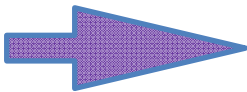
The Christian who would enjoy the power of the Spirit and the blessings of God must be insulated with holiness, godliness, and separation from the world.

***Isaiah 52:11: Depart ye, depart ye, go ye out from thence, touch no unclean thing; go ye out of the midst of her; be ye clean, that bear the vessels of the LORD.***

***1 Timothy 5:22: Lay hands suddenly on no man, neither be partaker of other men's sins: keep thyself pure.***

***Matthew 5:8: Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God.***

***1 Peter 1:22: Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit unto unfeigned love of the brethren, see that ye love one another with a pure heart fervently:***



***Samson's strength was not in the hair of his head, but in his obedience, separation, consecration, and cleanness of heart to God, and that is why he grew.***

***Judges 13:24: And the woman bare a son, and called his name Samson: and the child grew, and the LORD blessed him.***

There is no stopping place in this Christian life. Rather, we are to continue to grow in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

***2 Peter 3:18a: But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.***

Samson was never to touch wine, being a Nazarite, and though he was overcome by other things, he was not overcome by intoxication. Alcohol's arithmetic is severely disastrous. It:

**adds to sorrow**

**subtracts your money**

**multiplies grief and remorse; and**

**divides your home and estate**

Yet, Sampson greatly sinned, which goes to show that total abstinence in and of itself is not enough to form a character.

Lastly, he was not allowed to have his hair — at any time — shaven or cut away, so that when Samson was grown to manhood, he was covered with a heavy mass of hair. These locks of his were a token of his love to God as a servant to the most High — the sign of an obedient follower.

His extraordinary power with God made him an open prey and target of the devil. The devil does not bother useless and floundering children of God like he does the spiritual giant.

It seems there is scarcely to be found such a man alive upon the earth today. There are plenty to be found who call themselves men, but they are but husks of men. The kernel seems to have departed. The littleness of Christians results from the littleness of their consecration to Christ. The secret of their strength is not in themselves:

***Ephesians 6:10: Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of His Might.***

Samson was as any other man apart from the power of the Spirit. So are you. One night at Gaza, entrapped by the enemy, Samson remained till midnight, confident of this strength from above, and didn't hurry to depart. He disturbed no guard, but lifted the gates and walked miles with the mighty burden to the top of a hill outside the city.

The peculiar danger of consecration is that it may be broken. A razor will be used without our slightest notice when we lay in the lap of the world, and so lose our insulation and our strength. Notice the devil will always do his work when you get on his territory.

**Notice the devil will always do his work when you get on his territory.**

After a great victory, beware of pride. *"How strong I am."*

Have you ever been sheared of the power of the Spirit? Pride is a breach of consecration. As soon as I think how good *I* am, what *I* have done — not giving glory to God — I become weak and self-sufficient, after breaking ropes and playing with divine power.

How many also soften their consecration to a more gentle style. With God helping this preacher, I will not change one dot of an "i" or the cross of one "t", for the biggest congregation or the biggest pocketbook in the business in exchange for a man's plan to compromise my convictions. If I embrace compromise, my locks will be shorn, my eyes put out, and my future joy and ministry will be only grinding at

the mill. Many preachers have given up and have turned to defense work, the insurance business, and selling used cars.

When Samson got lean in his soul, he seemed more like a wanton boy than a Judge in Israel. He was like a little boy who enjoys playing jokes, getting a ringing laugh out of showing off. He began to laugh at temptations, and was so confident of his strength that he would venture into the midst of his enemies to have some fun. He had been the victor in so many contests and in so many battles that he felt there was nothing to fear. In fact, he no doubt had an undefined conviction that the danger to which he was exposing himself would add extra tang to his pleasure, and therefore he welcomed temptations to lust.

It is always a sad time when the day comes that any child of God desires to go amongst the ungodly to have a good time. Perhaps he had grown tired of being good, having been judge of Israel for over 20 years. He had a passionate hunger for pleasure. Have you ever felt the same? As a male that has been kept in the stable for the winter, when let loose, he wants to act silly. Or a mule still penned up, who kicks the slats off the barn with his monkeyshines. What can happen then is that:

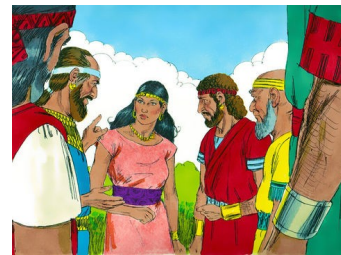
instead of praying . . .

***Matthew 6:13a: Lead us not into temptation***

. . . you hunt it.

You seek a laugh with the world, and in the end it will laugh at you, as they did Samson.

The Philistines tempted Delilah, whom he loved, to extract from him the secret of his great strength. So, the champion of Israel fell in love with Delilah. The record says that Samson loved Delilah, and yet this woman — for \$3,000 — was willing to heartlessly betray him into the hands of his enemies for torture and death.



In a joking sort of way, as if she never meant to be serious, she said, “*Tell me, Samson, how can you be bound and not be able to get away?*” He had his day of fun, but here is where we see the power of disobedience at work, blinding and deceiving. He does not seem to discern the evil design they were plotting against him, and at last gives the secret away.

Before, angels looked over heaven's belfry and watched him swoop down on 1,000 Philistines, putting satan's armies to flight. He had become the infantry, the cavalymen, the captain, major, and general. The children of the devil trembled when he was around, but what a change of scene! He failed to walk in the light God gave him, and it became darkness.

Soon, he would pay dearly for his folly. For a long time he told lies about his strength, and the tempter continued to pet, tempt, entice, work, and urge him to reveal the secret of his strength. Finally, he became mad and was vexed unto death. In this condition, he told all. Will you make light of getting angry, when your mouth opens, and out pours corruption that wounds, breaks, and cuts — not only yourself, but others.



The barber shop is set in order. Samson — all too blind to the danger that lies ahead — lays down and falls into a sleep of the costliest nature. He is shaven, and with his sheep wool gone, he is powerless and empty, for he knew not the Spirit left him. His locks of consecration are gone, and he still does not know it. He who tore lions apart, slew 1,000 Philistines, pulled the gates of Gaza up by their roots, and broke new ropes like flax that has been burned with fire! Yonder he is — this hero who had not lost a battle for over 20 years, with his put-on pretense. He who shook under the power of the Spirit now tries to shake himself. Poor Samson found out that though he could imitate it, he could not duplicate the power of the Spirit.



**Judges 16:19-21:**

**19 And she made him sleep upon her knees; and she called for a man, and she caused him to shave off the seven locks of his head; and she began to afflict him, and his strength went from him.**

**20 And she said, The Philistines be upon thee, Samson. And he awoke out of his sleep, and said, I will go out as at other times before, and shake myself. And he wist not that the LORD was departed from him.**

Let us not shake ourselves, but let the Lord shake us.

Suddenly now he is taken, his eyes are gored out, he is bound in fetters of brass, and he is forced to grind corn in his prison house.

**21 But the Philistines took him, and put out his**



***eyes, and brought him down to Gaza, and bound him with fetters of brass; and he did grind in the prison house.***

**Sin is blinding,  
binding, and  
grinding.**

Sin is blinding, binding, and grinding. The pity of it is that those who sin against their souls are blind, yet they think they are doing God service. Sheared of power with a heart that is empty, the soul becomes bound.

What is your Delilah? Evil speaking, ill will, prayer-less-ness, robbing God, broken vows, anger? Was it greed that sheared Ananias? Was it idolatry that sheared Samson? Was it disobedience that sheared King Saul? Adam paid paradise for pleasure. Achan paid for a wedge of gold with his life.

***Numbers 32:23b: Be sure your sin will find you out.***

There is nothing else that so completely hides God's loving face as willful disobedience. It makes us feel like wanting to lose the Presence and Power of God. Only those who have had it know what it means. However real God may be to you this morning, if you become careless, you will be defenseless and will surely fall into the snare of the devil. It is there, just waiting for you to cross the line.

Sin cost Samson his liberty, and now he must work as a slave. Thinking he would find greater joy, laughter, and freedom — something the devil promises those he has foiled into believing such lies — his liberty turns into slavery.

A huge and beautiful locomotive which we admire can only travel on small and narrow rails, while a little miserable cart can go anywhere that a train would not dare to go. So are those empowered by the Spirit.

Oh, bald-headed Christians, here is the message of encouragement to you.

***Judges 16:22: Howbeit the hair of his head began to grow again after he was shaven.***

Poor Samson, bowed in heart and soul, turned again to his God. He had disgraced the Name of his Lord, disfigured his life, and now was living in cruel bondage. But there is deliverance, and there is forgiveness with his Heavenly Father.

The world has spoken with an oily tongue smooth, sweet words to get you to lose out, and now is making fun and sport. *"I will give you such pleasure that you will forget God and religion"*, the world tells its sad victims. But we must find out — sometimes the sooner the better — that the world lies in the lap of the wicked one and tells black lies to all who will listen.

The goodness of God leadeth us to repentance, which is the only way to be

restored to divine favor.

***Romans 2:4b: not knowing that the goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance?***

We see how God restored this backslider with a powerful lesson. It is whatever the grace of God can do for us, for it cannot make sin a right thing. We will bear its scars.

The devil may shear our wool very closely and take our beauty and strength as saints, but surely something living within us will grow again, praise God! So quickly did Samson's hair grow — something the Philistines did not think possible.

The spirit of prayer came as he went about his work, uttering strange sounds. The devil laughed and said: *“Let us make sport of him now”*. In the opinion of people, Samson looked more presentable than before with his bobbed, matted hair.

***Judges 16:23-25:***

***23 Then the lords of the Philistines gathered them together for to offer a great sacrifice unto Dagon their god, and to rejoice: for they said, Our god hath delivered Samson our enemy into our hand.***

***24 And when the people saw him, they praised their god: for they said, Our god hath delivered into our hands our enemy, and the destroyer of our country, which slew many of us.***

***25 And it came to pass, when their hearts were merry, that they said, Call for Samson, that he may make us sport. And they called for Samson out of the prison house; and he made them sport: and they set him between the pillars.***



Prayerless, backsliding children of God want to be up-to-date with the world, too. At the expense of the Presence and Power of the Spirit, you can be popular, but you will be powerless.

I have seen a spirit of rebellion and stubbornness, and an unwillingness to obey the Word of Separation which is our power in Christ. I have seen many lose out, many who have become blind, bind, and grind.

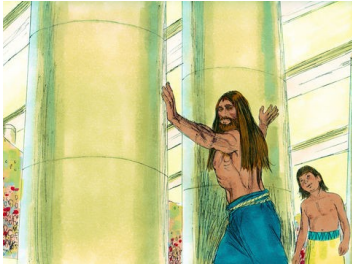
God is honored, and Samson is revived, refilled, and reunited to God.

***Judges 16:26-30:***

***26 And Samson said unto the lad that held him by the hand, Suffer me***



*that I may feel the pillars whereupon the house standeth, that I may lean upon them.*



**27** *Now the house was full of men and women; and all the lords of the Philistines were there; and there were upon the roof about three thousand men and women, that beheld while Samson made sport.*

**28** *And Samson called unto the LORD, and said, O Lord GOD, remember me, I pray Thee, and strengthen me, I pray Thee, only this once, O God, that I may be at once avenged of the*

*Philistines for my two eyes.*

**29** *And Samson took hold of the two middle pillars upon which the house stood, and on which it was borne up, of the one with his right hand, and of the other with his left.*

**30** *And Samson said, Let me die with the Philistines. And he bowed himself with all his might; and the house fell upon the lords, and upon all the people that were therein. So the dead which he slew at his death were more than they which he slew in his life.*



It became a real testimony to the godless that our God is loving and merciful, and that He forgives. They were ready to mock God's man, not knowing that he was restored. Do not ridicule those whom God restores. It will be hard on you.

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