

Judges 16:22

However, the hair of his head began to grow again after it had been shaven.

When I read today's verse, what pops out to me the most, is God's Amazing Grace, because it's written all over this one little sentence. I say that because if you know the story of Sampson (Which I think we all do) we know that he was called by the Lord from his mother's womb to be consecrated, or set apart for God and His work.

† **Judges 13:3-5 & 24** *And the Angel of the LORD appeared to the woman and said to her, "Indeed now, you are barren and have borne no children, but you shall conceive and bear a son. Now therefore, please be careful not to drink wine or similar drink, and not to eat anything unclean. For behold, you shall conceive and bear a son. And no razor shall come upon his head, for the child shall be a Nazirite to God from the womb; and he shall begin to deliver Israel out of the hand of the Philistines." So the woman bore a son and called his name Samson; and the child grew, and the LORD blessed him.*

But we also read that Sampson had an appetite for women, and we read several times of him running after women, including prostitutes. Yet, God still used him even when he was in sin. Now this is no reason for us to be in sin thinking that if God blessed Sampson while he was sinning, He will bless and use me too. No not at all, because we know that the last woman he was with, Delilah, could easily be bought, and that she sold Sampson to the Philistines, the enemy of Israel who Sampson was supposed to be defeating while he was defending or judging Israel. And when you read this account, notice that it says that Sampson loved Delilah, but it never said she loved him.

† **Judges 16:4-5** *Afterward it happened that he loved a woman in the Valley of Sorek, whose name was Delilah. And the lords of the Philistines came up to her and said to her, "Entice him, and find out where his great strength lies, and by what means we may overpower him, that we may bind him to afflict him; and every one of us will give you eleven hundred pieces of silver."*

So then why was she with Sampson? It could be that he had money, or was known for his strength, or was popular and she wanted to be with the in crowd. The bible really doesn't say, but we know that she didn't care about Sampson, because if she did, she would not had sold him out to his enemies. But Sampson didn't care, he saw what he wanted and went after it, even though it was a sinful relationship. We also read of the things that Sampson was doing that should not be done by a Nazarite (touching a dead animal, drinking or having anything that came from the grapevine, cutting his hair, etc.), because it would break that Nazarite vow between the Lord and himself.

So, long story short, Sampson gave in to Delilah who has sold him out to the Philistines, and the end results was that they shaved Sampson's head, put out his eyes, and put him into hard labor in prison

† **Judges 16:21** *Then the Philistines took him and put out his eyes, and brought him down to Gaza. They bound him with bronze fetters, and he became a grinder in the prison.*

So you would think that God had given up on Sampson and that there was no hope for him, especially when you read after they shaved his head that:

† **Judges 16:20b** *But he did not know that the LORD had departed from him.*

But as you read today's verse, you discover that it wasn't forever that the Lord had departed from Sampson.

† *"However, the hair of his head began to grow again after it had been shaven."*

"His hair was growing back, big deal" you may be thinking. Well, in Sampson's case it was a huge deal, because as we read;

† **Judges 16:17** *that he told her all his heart, and said to her, "No razor has ever come upon my head, for I have been a Nazirite to God from my mother's womb. If I am shaven, then my strength will leave me, and I shall become weak, and be like any other man."*

The reality is Sampson's strength was in the Lord, and not his hair. Yet Sampson sold out that symbol of his strength for a few hours of pleasure with a woman in bed. Yet in God's love, grace, and mercy, He restored Sampson to Himself (God) and was slowly healing Sampson's heart and relationship with Him (God). And the end result was that the Lord still used Sampson to help destroy the enemies of Israel, despite all the wrong that Sampson had done.

† **Judges 16:30** *Then Samson said, "Let me die with the Philistines!" And he pushed with all his might, and the temple fell on the lords and all the people who were in it. So the dead that he killed at his death were more than he had killed in his life.*

This is a reminder for all of us, that no matter how far you may have strayed away from the Lord, He can restore that relationship between Himself and you. Sometimes it happens immediately like with the prodigal son, or some times it happens slowly, as healing needs to happen in your heart.

† **Luke 15:20** *And he arose and came to his father. But when he was still a great way off, his father saw him and had compassion, and ran and fell on his neck and kissed him.*

† **Judges 16:22** *However, the hair of his head began to grow again after it had been shaven.*

† Hosea 6:1-3 (NLT2) *“Come, let us return to the LORD. He has torn us to pieces; now he will heal us. He has injured us; now he will bandage our wounds. In just a short time he will restore us, so that we may live in his presence. Oh, that we might know the LORD! Let us press on to know him. He will respond to us as surely as the arrival of dawn or the coming of rains in early spring.”*