

Samson's weakness was his downfall. Experienced as he may have been, God brought one into his life that was more than a match for him. Delilah. She pretended to love him for the sake of a promised reward, and her motives were to gain his secret and betray him. Three times she tricked him and each time she was closer to the secret. As time moved along, in Judges 16:15 she said unto him, "How canst thou say, I love thee, when thine heart is not with me?"

God might well say to some of us, "How canst thou say, I love thee, when thy heart is not with me?" She pressed him daily for his secret with these words. Then he told her from his heart that not a razor should come upon his head. (Judges 16:16) Imagine the man whose conscience was so dead that he yielded to this temptation.

Briefly he was taken prisoner, stripped of his strength and his honor. His eyes were plucked out and he was helpless. He was now just a captive prisoner of the Philistines. They degraded him further by making him grind corn in the mill. No man is strong against a foe he secretly admires.

Samson was taken captive. What is it of the world that you still secretly admire? Has it already taken your heart captive? Must God let you play the fool; must he let you be taken captive? Here is a man who will idle at the mill with slaves. Here is a picture of a consecrated life now

desecrated, blindness instead of sight, bondage instead of fear. Christians, we should learn a lesson! Learn it now before it is repeated in our own experience! God has put the church in the world, but the church has let the world come into it.

Samson presumed against God. Step by step he left the place of blessing, privilege. In confidence, at Delilah's hands--they were not the first, I am confident, unholy hands that took hold of Samson because the women of Timmath (Judges 14:2). What did he care for the will of God? He wanted what he wanted and he was going to please himself. What did he think of the Nazarite vow? Here was a little compromise; it wouldn't amount to much. Little did he realize that one defeat leads to another; one compromise just sets the stage for another. So Samson took a wife from among the Philistines.

The old Puritan used to say, "If you are a child of God and you marry a child of the Devil, you can expect trouble from your father-in-law." Believe me, Samson had trouble with his father-in-law. Samson was robbed of his strength as he slept upon Delilah's knee. Wherever a child of God is asleep upon the knees of compromise, he is robbed of his strength. It is a moment of compromise that the world learns the secret of our strength. Forgotten vows, robbed of our power and blessings of God. The secret of strength