

CROSSING THE LINE

JUDGES 16:4-22

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 Delilah said to Samson, "Please tell me where your great strength lies, and with what you may be bound to afflict you."

And Samson said to her, "If they bind me with seven fresh bowstrings, not yet dried, then I shall become weak, and be like any other man." So the lords of the Philistines brought up to her seven fresh bowstrings, not yet dried, and she bound him with them.

Now men were lying in wait, staying with her in the room. And she said to him, "The Philistines are upon you, Samson!" But he broke the bowstrings as a strand of yarn breaks when it touches fire. So the secret of his strength was not known.

Then Delilah said to Samson, "Look, you have mocked me and told me lies. Now, please tell me what you may be bound with."

So he said to her, "If they bind me securely with new ropes that have never been used, then I shall become weak, and be like any other man." Therefore Delilah took new ropes and

bound him with them, and said to him, "The Philistines are upon you, Samson!"

And men were lying in wait, staying in the room. But he broke them off his arms like a thread.

Delilah said to Samson, "Until now you have mocked me and told me lies. Tell me what you may be bound with."

And he said to her, "If you weave the seven locks of my head into the web of the loom" - So she wove it tightly with the batten of the loom, and said to him, "The Philistines are upon you, Samson!"

But he awoke from his sleep, and pulled out the batten and the web from the loom.

Then she said to him, "How can you say, 'I love you,' when your heart is not with me? You have mocked me these three times, and have not told me where your great strength lies."

And it came to pass, when she pestered him daily with her words and pressed him, so that his soul was vexed to death, 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."

When Delilah saw that he had told her all his heart, she sent and called for the lords of the Philistines, saying, "Come up once more, for he has told me all his heart." So the lords of the Philistines came up to her and brought the money in their hand.

Then she lulled him to sleep on her knees, and called for a man and had him shave off the seven locks of his head. Then she began to torment him, and his strength left him. And she said, "The Philistines are upon you, Samson!"

So he awoke from his sleep, and said, "I will go out as before, at other times, and shake myself free!" But he did not know that the LORD had departed from him.

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.

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

The California redwoods are one of the wonders of nature. The colossal trees are skyscrapers - their girth is gigantic - they're kings of the forest. But nothing is as impressive as the falling of one of these redwoods...

The cutters score the tree trunk. As they move the saw back and forth the cut deepens. Soon, what was a break in the bark becomes a gaping wound. The tree bends. It leans further and further from the cutters.

Before long you hear the cracking of wood fibers. With each slice of the saw the noise builds and builds. It swells to a roar - and the tree begins to fall.

If you're standing underneath the redwood when it starts to drop you get the impression the sky is falling.

A huge mass of branches and limbs start to move and crackle. Finally, the trunk explodes along the cut-line. The

redwood crashes to the forest floor with a thunderous thud. *Folks who've seen it say the falling of a redwood tree is an experience you never forget.*

Well, today, I need to yell *"TIIIIIMMBEEEEER."*

We're going to talk about the falling of a redwood. Not the fall of a tree, but the fall of a giant of a man.

Samson was huge - *not necessarily in physical stature* - but in privilege, and power, and effectiveness.

Samson was a Nazirite (*a man dedicated to God*).

He came from a godly home - served in a vital post - was feared by his enemies, and was used by God in supernatural ways. Samson was God's Strongman - a divine vigilante - a one-man Philistine wrecking crew.

Samson was a redwood.

Yet, Samson fell - an outcome that proves the old adage, *"The bigger they are, the harder they fall."*

That was never truer than with Samson...

Tonight, we're going to watch the saw slice back and forth across the core of this man. It begins with a small line scored around his heart... We'll watch that line deepen, and become a gaping hole... Samson begins to lean, and starts to crackle... Finally he explodes, and Samson topples to the ground with an incredible thud.

Look on the forest floor of history, and you'll notice that many giant redwoods have fallen. Samson is not the last man

to rise to spiritual heights - become mighty for God - and then come crashing to the ground.

Especially in our day, it seems to be an all too common occurrence. Church leaders we trusted - men who stood for God - one day we see their name on the internet... a scandal... the Church takes a black-eye.

We've all met a Samson - a person who had it all... *beautiful wife, a good job, healthy kids, a nice house in the burbs, a cool car, even a role in the church.*

Then one day they crash... morally and spiritually.

A secret, sinister side gets exposed. A reputation is destroyed. A name gets muddied. A family gets crushed. Hearts are wounded... *And an already jaded and cynical society becomes even more disillusioned.*

If you've ever seen a redwood you realize just how majestic these kings of the forest are. They're inspiring, and when one falls it causes a certain sadness. The same is true of a man, once used by God, who falls.

To understand the fall of Samson, four aspects of his life need to be examined: **his vow, his vice, his valley, and his victory. Let me repeat them...**

Samson is a lesson for you and me... God wants to use us in broad, and deep, and wonderful ways - but if we stray too far - if our hearts wander - He'll put us on the shelf just like He did Samson. We'll be disqualified.

First, to understand Samson you have to understand his **vow**. Samson was a Nazirite. The Hebrew word "*nazir*" means "*to set aside for God*" or "*to dedicate.*"

Numbers 6 describes this special act of devotion to God... The vow was three-fold: the Nazirite was prohibited to eat or drink from the fruit of the vine - to cut his hair - or to touch anything that was dead.

Thus, you would never find a Nazirite in *a liquor store... or in a barber shop... or in a funeral parlor...*

And these are three places that get heavy traffic.

Drive by a new strip mall, and it'll have a liquor store, and a barber shop. Funeral homes are everywhere too. *In fact, people are just dying to get into them...*

Folks want a **nip**, a **clip**, then a **RIP** - they want to *rest in peace*, and leave this world with no regrets.

But God instituted the vow of the Nazirite to make a statement. Life is more than a *nip*, a *clip*, and a *RIP*

A Nazirite was the opposite of what the world values.

This world is all about *physical pleasure*, and *outward beauty*, and *temporal, earthly greatness*.

1 John 2:15 warns us, "**Do not love the world or the things in the world.**" The world around us has a value system that runs counter to the priorities God would have us live by. This is why John tells us, "**If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.**"

And here's what he means by *the world*... "**For all that is in the world - the lust of the flesh** (that's mere physical

pleasure), the lust of the eyes (sheer outward beauty), and the pride of life (temporary greatness)..."

Here's another way to say it... The world is all about feeling great - and looking great - and being great.

But the Nazirite lived an opposite kind of lifestyle that reminded us that real life is lived on a spiritual - not a physical plane. True fulfillment is found *above* and *beyond* - not in the realm immediately around us.

Real joy isn't produced by *distilled spirits*, but by the *Holy Spirit*... **Real beauty** isn't created inside a barber shop, it's found inside a person's heart... And every mortuary proves that **real meaning** isn't to be found in this life - in earthly ambitions. There's a life to come.

True soul-satisfaction comes from eternal pursuits.

Understand from the outset, Samson's superhuman strength was related to his vow to God - not long hair.

His hair was just part of his vow. If it were long locks that produced supernatural strength, every heavy metal rock star would lay down his guitar, and play in the NFL. *Samson's nappy hair was just a symbol.*

Samson's strength was due to *his commitment to God*, and *that God had made a commitment to him*.

When the Philistine army had Samson surrounded we read, "The Spirit of the LORD came upon him mightily..." God Almighty empowered Samson.

In fact, I believe the usual depictions we see of Samson are wrong. He's always depicted as a Hebrew body builder - a muscular brute - a Jew on steroids.

But if that was the case, why did the Philistines have to bribe Delilah to learn the secret of his strength?

If Samson had bulging biceps, enormous pecks, and a barrel chest they'd know the secret of his strength!

Keep him off the weights. Stop his protein shakes.

I believe, if Samson were wearing a tank top there wouldn't be a single ripple in his shirt. He was just an ordinary, run-of-the-mill guy, with an average physique.

When we get to heaven Samson may be the little guy - the runt of the litter - the 98 pound weakling...

But oh, the punch he packed when the Spirit of God came on him! Just ask the 1000 Philistines Samson slaughtered with nothing but a donkey's jawbone.

Samson made a vow - but he also had **his vice**.

Flip back to Judges 14:2 and you'll notice the very first recorded words that come out of Samson's mouth.

He says, "I have seen a woman..." This was Samson's problem in a nutshell - he may or may not have been an exerciser, but he was a womanizer.

He liked to chase skirts. Samson had an eye for the ladies. He could slay 1000 Philistines, but not his own libido.

"Samson was a he-man with a she-problem."

Let me say, despite what our culture tells us **life is more than sex**. Sure, sex is pleasurable, but the pleasure is

physical and fleeting - whereas, every human's deepest needs are spiritual and eternal.

Certainly, God created us with desires, but God expects men to channel their sexual desires into a love for a wife. This is what *steadies us* and *matures us*.

Pursue sex apart from the responsibilities and commitments of a wife, and it enslaves and ruins us.

Men, we need to surrender our sexual needs to God.

The Lord expects us to give Him control over every area of our lives - including *the rocket in your pocket*.

God will meet your needs *in due time*. *In the meantime*, He has a work to do in you. So often sex is a way to escape and mask over our emptiness. God wants to fill the hole in our hearts from the inside out.

Remember, **a physical pleasure will never satisfy a spiritual need.** The key to real, lasting, permanent fulfillment is not *physical contact* with another person, but a *spiritual connection* with the God who made us.

The Illinois Department of Natural Resources reports that 17,000 deer are struck by motorists each year on state roads. And the peak season for road kill is late November – *the season when the bucks like to mate*.

The state Wildlife Director states, “The deer are concentrating almost exclusively on reproductive activities, and are a lot less wary than they normally would be.” And this can also turn a man into road-kill.

A man gets a little frisky. He wants to escape the pressures of life. He's looking for a little diversion so he logs on to the internet - or he slips into a strip club.

Eventually a woman at work shows him a little attention... It happens so easily. It starts so innocently.

Author Florence Littauer writes, "No good Christian man or woman gets up in the morning, looks out the window, and says, 'My, this is a lovely day! I guess I'll go out and commit adultery.' Yet many do anyway."

It reminds me of two monks standing by the river.

A gorgeous, young woman approaches them and explains she needs to cross the stream. One of the monks picks her up, lays her over his shoulder, carries her across, and sits her down. She appreciates his kindness, but his friend and fellow monk is appalled!

Later his friend rebukes him, "As monks, we've taken a vow to never look on a woman, let alone touch her body. At the river today you did both." The first monk said, "My brother, I put that woman down on the other side of the river. You're still carrying her in your mind."

And this was Samson's problem. He had a lust for women, and it got him into trouble. On several occasions it caused him to break his strategic vow...

In chapter 14 Samson goes to see the woman in Timnah... We're told in verse 5, "(he) came to the vineyards of Timnah." Hey, a Nazirite is suppose to steer clear of the grapevines! Here Samson sins.

Notice verse 9, on another trip to Timnah he finds honey in the carcass of a lion. He grabs a little snack.

But Samson, what about your vow? The third part of his vow was not to touch anything that was dead.

Long before his infamous haircut, Samson broke the other elements of his vow. Like the deer in Illinois, he spent so much time fixated on his lust for the opposite sex he ignored the commitments he had made to God.

Samson poses a strange dilemma.

In 16:1-3, he leaves the house of a hooker, pulls up the gates of Gaza, and bulldozes over the enemy.

This is a quandary - he spends the night in sin, yet the power of God comes upon him. Samson was *familiar with God's power*, but he was a *stranger to God's purity*. How can a man be used so powerfully by God, and be so nonchalant about obedience to God?

There's only one answer... it's God's mercy.

It's an amazing truth. God doesn't wait until we're sinless, or flawless to use us. God employs imperfect people. God supplies us with on-the-job training.

He fixes us on the fly! The Holy Spirit works in us - and on us - and through us - all at the same time!

And this is good news. But don't make the wrong assumptions. Just because God continues to use you doesn't mean He approves of everything you do.

In the story of Samson, God is extremely concerned with Samson's sin. Eventually, there comes a point when enough is enough. **Samson will cross the line.**

One day, God's strongman will go too far, and the power he has come to expect - and believes will always be there - will suddenly be gone.

Samson's life teaches us there is a definite point - **a line** you don't want to cross. Cross that line, and God pronounces "*disqualified.*" He withdraws His blessing.

He stops using you, and puts you on the shelf.

Jesus, the *Giver of the Great Commission* will put you *out of commission* if you cross a certain line. And here's the added problem - **you don't really know where God draws that line until it's been crossed.**

It's a pathetic scene... Samson jumps up off Delilah's lap, finds himself tied with ropes - he flexes expecting the bands to pop as they always have, and nothing...

Nothing happens! The ropes don't break. *This time Spirit of God **does not** come mightily upon him!*

Stone Mountain is the world's largest exposed piece of granite. It rises 865 feet above its surroundings.

One side of the mountain is a sheer face. If you're on the top, and you walk toward the slope, the mountain gets steeper and steeper until it suddenly plunges.

Every few years someone falls off the mountain.

Multiple signs are posted, but hikers ignore them. There's a four foot fence, but it's easy to climb over.

Even for skilled hikers the curvature of the rock is so deceptive. It's steeper than it seems, and if you start to slide, there're no trees or shrubs to break your fall.

After a recent case of a grad student who fell 600 feet to his death, the Park safety chief commented, "We catch them daily over the fence, and sadly, this proves how dangerous it is to cross that fence."

And Samson proves how lethal it is to cross the line God draws. Like hikers on Stone Mountain, when you realize you've gone too far, often it's too late to stop.

Here's a crucial truth we all need to realize, God used Samson to do mighty exploits - but the real mission in his life was first and foremost to be a Nazirite - *to model virtue*. And the same is true for us.

It's not so much what you *do* - as it is what you *be* that matters to God. Your accomplishments are His business. He wants **you** attentive to your character.

This is what Samson ignored, and his oversight brought him down. He got so caught up in what God *empowered him to do*, he neglected what God *enlisted him to be*. A dangerous dichotomy developed in his life.

What about you? Is there a contradiction between *who you are*, and *what you do*? You go to church - sing praise to God - teach a class - serve as an usher...

Outwardly, Samson served the Lord, but inwardly a sinister lust lurked in the recesses of his heart. And he allowed it to linger, and grow, and eventually blossom.

Rather than *pluck it out*, and *cut it off*, and *cast it away*. He never made an effort to deal with his sin.

Comedian Jack Handley is famous for his tongue-in-cheek humor. He writes this, "There use to be this bully who demanded my lunch money every day. I was smaller, so I gave it to him. Then I decided to fight back. I started taking karate lessons. But then the karate lesson guy said I had to start paying him \$5 a lesson. So I just went back to paying the bully."

And that's what a lot of men do. Rather than fight the battle with sin - they just give in to being bullied!

Hey, to deal with a lust you repent - and change the lifestyle that supports that lust. Then you trust God to replace *your lust* with *His love*. You *repent* and *believe!*

But this requires humility and willingness. It's a lot easier to just pay off the bully, and capitulate to the sin.

This was Samson. He ignored his problem. He never dealt with his lust. And as a result it festered, and grew, and took a tighter and tighter hold on his life...

It reminds me of two hillbillies who chased a bobcat up a tree. One boy had a canvas bag. He shouted to his partner, "I'll shimmy up that tree, and chase him down - then you grab that varmint, and put him in the sack." The boy climbed the tree, and shook the limb.

It didn't take long for the cat to fall. His buddy grabbed the bobcat, and tried to stuff him in the sack.

There was a lot of screeching and screaming – hair and fur and skin were flying in all directions.

The boy in the tree shouted, *“What’s the matter, need some help catching a little ole bobcat?”*

His partner replied, *“No, I don’t need no help a-catching him. I just need a little help turning him loose.”*

And that’s what happens to us when we toy with sin, and tolerated a lust - the lust grows stronger and takes a tighter hold. It latches on, and doesn’t let go. And the longer we let it linger the harder it is to shed.

Ever stuck your tongue to a frozen flag pole? Keep it there too long and your skin tears when you pull it off. This is why a lust is called a vice. It’s a vice-grip.

Samson had a *vice*, and it led him to **his valley.**

Judges 16:4 tells us Delilah’s house was in the Valley of Sorek, but the valley I’m referring to is a spiritual place. When Samson moves in and shacks up with Delilah he reaches a low point morally, spiritually.

He’s getting closer and closer to crossing God’s line of no return... *and he doesn’t even realize it...* He’s sinned so often, he’s no longer conscious of his sin.

Notice Samson’s attitude in chapter 16. It’s so cavalier, nonchalant - even cocky. He acts as if he’s immune to mistakes. He’s forgotten his power is a gift.

He's acting as if the power He exudes belongs to him and not God - that he can turn it on and off at will.

When Delilah asks, "Tell me where your great strength lies?" Samson just plays. It's a game to him.

He poses these silly scenarios, then laughs it off when God's power comes and he routs the Philistines.

After the second time you'd think Samson would know Delilah's intentions are to destroy him. She says as much. I think he honestly thought he was invincible.

Samson had convinced himself he was immune to the forces that destroy other men. He was smarter. He was more anointed. He felt he was a special case.

Samson lived his life, and conducted his ministry, as if God had given him a free pass to do as he pleased.

Beware when you start to think the rules apply to other men, *but not you!* That you're an exception...

The third time Delilah questions him, Samson comes perilously close to spilling the beans on his strength..

Notice, what he answers in verse 13, "If you weave the seven locks of my head into the web of a loom..."

I'm *shocked* Samson even mentions his *locks*. He's skating on thin ice. He's close to the edge of the cliff...

Once, a rich man wanted to hire a chauffeur. He ran an ad in the newspaper. Three applicants responded.

As he interviewed the first candidate he pointed out the window at the low rock wall that lined the driveway.

The rich man asked him, *“How close to that wall can you drive my limo, without scratching the paint?”* The applicant was cocky, *“I’ll get six inches from that wall.”*

During his interview with the second candidate the rich man pointed to the same rock wall, and asked the same question, *“How close to that rock wall can you drive my limousine, without scratching the paint job?”*

This prospective chauffeur bettered his competition, *“I can get within three inches of that wall. No problem.”*

Finally, the last of the candidates was asked the exact same question, *“How close to that rock wall can you drive my limousine, without scratching the paint?”*

This man shook his head, *“Sir, if I’m driving your limo I’d stay as far away from that rock wall as possible.”*

Needless to say, the last chauffeur got the job.

Samson wanted to drive as close to the edge as possible. He wanted to enjoy his sin and its pleasures right up to the point of losing God’s blessing.

But he didn’t know where that point was!

You never know where God draws the line.

That’s why it’s wiser to stay as far away from the wall as possible. Don’t even toy with sin. Choose the deep-down fulfillment of an eternal relationship with God, over the passing and superficial pleasures of sin.

Sadly, in verse 15 Samson finally crosses the line.

And notice the *line* Delilah uses to get him to cross the line, She said, “How can you say, ‘I love you,’ when your heart is not with me?” What an infamous line!

That line has gotten more people in trouble than any other...
“If you really loved me you would...”

That’s such a stupid line! If a woman loves a man, or if a man loves a woman, they aren’t going to ask the other to break their vow to God. They’ll support each other’s purity. Real love doesn’t use another person for a moment of selfish gratification, then toss them aside.

True love respects the other person. It values their future, and especially their relationship with God.

Delilah asks him, “How can you say, ‘I love you,’ when **your heart is not with me?**” Here’s the line Samson is about to cross... **Where is his heart?**

Up until now, his heart has belonged to God.

Yes, *he’s yielded to weakness, and been guilty of compromise, and neglected repentance* - but despite it all, God was still willing to acknowledge his flickering faith. His heart was muddied, but it was still God-ward.

Samson had broken two of the three vows of a Nazirite. But at least he had kept the second part of his vow intact - no razor had ever touched his head.

That’s why Samson’s hair was so vital - *it was the last remnant of his commitment to God.* It’s the last thread holding Samson up - keeping him from crossing the line. **His hair was the last straw in a weak faith.**

Will his heart hold? Will his love last?
Will his passion for God endure?

We're told in verse 16, Delilah **“pestered him daily with her words, and pressed him, so that his soul was vexed to death.”** When you tolerate a sin you find that it becomes relentless. She wouldn't let it lie. She kept bringing it up - nagging - **“what's the secret, Sammy?”**

Samson could've packed up and left for Israel. After all he and Delilah were just shacking up - there was no marriage here - no kids. Samson has no obligations.

He could end it, and go home - but he doesn't want to end it because his heart is in the *valley* of Sorek.

Jesus said, **“where you treasure is, there will your heart be also.”** What started out a *tease* has now become his *treasure*... **Samson has crossed the line.**

When he tells Delilah about his hair, Samson makes the decision that *his lust for this woman* is stronger than *his love for God*. He never says it - probably didn't think it - might've denied it if you had mentioned it - but in his heart he's decided he'd rather have Delilah, than God's power... *And ironically he gets neither...*

The Spirit of God leaves him, and so does Delilah...

Samson might have loved Delilah, but in the end she sure didn't love him. She took the money and ran!

After his Philistine haircut, Samson's enemies shackle him, and take the once mighty man to prison.

As you might guess, I've been a big Atlanta Braves' fan for a long time, and in our glory years we had a redneck reliever - the infamous John Rocker. Once, Rocker did an interview where he trashed New York City, and managed to insult every New Yorker.

Well, the first time the Braves returned to Shea Stadium to play the Mets, Rocker was treated brutally, mercilessly. It was probably deserved. The fans yelled obscenities, and threw batteries at him in the bullpen.

And that's what I always have in mind when I imagine the kind of reception Samson got from the Philistines. These people hated Samson's guts. He'd been their arch-nemesis for years. Samson had slaughtered hundreds of their friends and relatives.

Now it's their time for a little retaliation...

And guess what form of torture is chosen? Believe it or not, they take a hot iron and **poke out his eyes**.

How ironic! All his life Samson had suffered from wandering eyes. He's looked on, and lusted after women. And because he had never dealt with his problem, God deals with it for him. He loses his eyes.

Samson becomes *blind* so that he can *truly* see.

The Philistines keep him in chains, and make him grind grain in the prison like an ox or mule. On special occasions they bring Samson into their temple to mock him, and make fun of this once mighty man of God.

But verse 22 shines a ray of hope into Samson's hopeless situation. We're told, **“However, the hair of his head began to**

grow again...” *To me, that’s one of the most encouraging verses in all the Scriptures.*

It’s a hint - God isn’t through with His strongman.

Samson has slid so far. He’s been disqualified from ministry - for even life in Israel among God’s people.

Like the removal of a redwood, great has been his fall. He’s hit the forest floor with a thunderous thud.

Yet, his hair begins to grow. In other words, even after a disqualification it’s never too late to re-up one more time. God does give second chances. He still loves Samson, and wants to work **one more victory.**

God is even willing to go back to the shelf to fetch a broken vessel that He can use to bring Him glory!

It’s obvious from his final prayer Samson no longer cares about his own selfish desires. His lust no longer controls him. A change has occurred. Broken, humble - he sees that God is all that really matters in this life.

The Philistines have chained Samson between the two pillars that support their temple. He’s on show.

He’s been the object of insult, and injury...

But he prays a prayer of desperation in verse 28, **“O Lord God, remember me, I pray! Strengthen me, I pray, just this once, O God, that I may with one blow take vengeance on the Philistines for my two eyes!”**

And God answers his prayer!

Samson pushes over the two support pillars, and the temple topples, killing thousands more Philistines.

You might say, “In Samson’s final performance he brings down the house... literally!” Verse 30 provides the casualty report, “So the dead that he killed at his death were more than he had killed in his life.” His greatest victory came through his defeat and death.

And this is the means by which God works victories in the lives of His people today. We find His power by dying to *ourselves - our lust - and our pride - and our selfishness.* **Jesus, not you, is what really matters.**

Romans 12:1 calls us to “present our bodies a living sacrifice” - not a dead sacrifice like Samson, but a living sacrifice... God still has a purpose for you!

If you’ve crossed the line - then cross back over.

Jesus died on a Roman cross so you could *cross back!* His forgiveness and freedom are for you today.

Maybe you find yourself in circumstances that make you feel like a Philistine prisoner grinding out the grain. *You’re a mockery of the man you once were...*

Well, take heart, God isn’t through with you. His Spirit isn’t ashamed to come upon you. He’ll use you again - at least, one more time. *But you need to come away from the slippery slope, and turn back to God.*

And if this message has reached “a Samson” in the nick of time... You’ve been taking short-cuts - toying with temptation - stumbling ever so closer toward that line of no return... *And nobody knows it but you...*

Then please, come out of the **valley** - repent of your **vice** -
renew your **vow** - and walk in God's **victory**...

And do it today! In Jesus' name. Amen.