

Ron Armstrong • May 25 & 26, 2019
Heroes: All Flawed Heroes

Judges 16:4 Some time later, he fell in love with a woman... whose name was Delilah. ⁵The rulers of the Philistines went to her and said, "See if you can lure him into showing you the secret of his great strength and how we can overpower him so we may tie him up and subdue him. Each one of us will give you eleven hundred shekels of silver." ⁶So Delilah said to Samson, "Tell me the secret of your great strength ..."

¹¹He said, "If anyone ties me securely with new ropes that have never been used, I'll become as weak as any other man." ¹²So Delilah took new ropes and tied him with them. Then, with men hidden in the room, she called to him, "Samson, the Philistines are upon you!" But he snapped the ropes off his arms as if they were threads.

¹⁵Then she said to him, "How can you say, 'I love you,' when you won't confide in me? This is the third time you have made a fool of me..." ¹⁶With such nagging she prodded him day after day until he was tired to death.

¹⁷So he told her everything. "No razor has ever been used on my head because I have been a Nazirite set apart to God since birth. If my head were shaved, my strength would leave me, and I would become as weak as any other man."

¹⁸When Delilah saw that he had told her everything, she sent word to the rulers of the Philistines, "Come back once more; he has told me everything." So the rulers of the Philistines returned with the silver in their hands. ¹⁹Having 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.

²⁰Then 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.

A. We'll talk about them, but it's really about us.

1. Heroes definition: People who, with God's help, overcome the OBSTACLES between them and their large and small callings.
2. You can't correctly identify your obstacles if you don't identify your GOALS or calling.
3. The obstacles, adversity, and stress are necessary. Without adversity:
 - a. You won't MATURE.
 - b. You won't become STRONG.
 - c. You'll miss critical lessons.
4. I like the flawed heroes the best because they show that there's HOPE for us.
5. Sometimes you'll just encounter obstacles; sometimes you CREATE your own.

B. Story time.

C. In a nutshell:

1. Identify your large and small callings.
2. Accept adversity as the price of growth.
3. Lean hard.