**SERIES: “SILENT KILLERS”**

**TITLE: “SECRET ADDICTIONS” (DYING FOR A FIX)**

**TEXT: Judge 16:15-24**

**15**[And she said unto him, How canst thou say, I love thee, when thine heart ***is*** not with me? thou hast mocked me these three times, and hast not told me wherein thy great strength ***lieth***.](http://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/Judges-16-15/)**16** [And it came to pass, when she pressed him daily with her words, and urged him, ***so*** that his soul was vexed unto death;](http://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/Judges-16-16/)**17** [That he told her all his heart, and said unto her, There hath not come a razor upon mine head; for I ***have been*** a Nazarite unto God from my mother's womb: if I be shaven, then my strength will go from me, and I shall become weak, and be like any ***other*** man.](http://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/Judges-16-17/)**18** [And when Delilah saw that he had told her all his heart, she sent and called for the lords of the Philistines, saying, Come up this once, for he hath shewed me all his heart. Then the lords of the Philistines came up unto her, and brought money in their hand.](http://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/Judges-16-18/)**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.](http://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/Judges-16-19/) **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.](http://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/Judges-16-20/) **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.](http://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/Judges-16-21/)**22** [Howbeit the hair of his head began to grow again after he was shaven.](http://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/Judges-16-22/) **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.](http://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/Judges-16-23/) **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.](http://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/Judges-16-24/)

**INTRODUCTION**: If we are going to do effective ministry in these turbulent times, we must face the reality that from time to time addiction comes to church. While we would all love to attend a perfect church full of perfect people lead by a perfect pastor, the truth of the matter is that the church is not a museum for perfect people but is rather a hospital for the sick and afflicted.

**Matthew 9:12-13**

**12 But when Jesus heard that, he said unto them, They that be whole need not a physician, but they that are sick. 13 But go ye and learn what that meaneth, I will have mercy, and not sacrifice: for I am not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.**

 Whenever our society thinks about the issue of addiction, our minds go to the many stereo-types that our media has chosen to focus on. We see that person who is addicted to weed, heroin or crack cocaine who has lost their dignity, their sense of self and have resorted to stealing from friends, strangers and even their own mother to support their habit. We think of the raging alcoholic whose temper tantrums have served to ruin their families, their homes and their once budding career. We somehow think that addictions are only something that the lost and extremely sinful wrestle with. But the truth of the matter is, that as much as we don’t like to admit it and will even overlook it, addiction is present in all types of places in our society and we ought not to think that we or those close to us are somehow immune to it. It is in our schools, in the workplace, on our college campuses, in the offices, sports arenas and yes, addiction often times comes to church.

“No one is immune from addiction; it afflicts people of all ages, races, classes, and professions.” (Patrick Kennedy)

DISCUSSION QUESTION: Can you recall having to deal with persons in any of these places who were bound by addiction? How did their addiction impact you and your life?

\* According to the National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH), 19.7 million American adults (aged 12 and older) battled a substance use disorder. These include so called soft drugs like marijuana, the overuse of Prescription drugs, glue and other mind altering substances.

\* 1 out of every 8 adults struggled with both alcohol and drug use disorders simultaneously.

\* Drug abuse and addiction cost American society more than $740 billion annually in lost workplace productivity, healthcare expenses, and crime-related costs.

\* Studies estimate that 10 percent to 15 percent of video gamers exhibit signs that meet the World Health Organization’s criteria for addiction.

\* Sex-addiction treatment organization estimates that between 3 and 5 percent of the U.S. population—or more than 9 million people—could meet the criteria for sexual addiction.

In the Church

\* Statsshow that at least 50% of Christian men were regularly viewing internet porn. At least one in three of all regular porn viewers are women.

\* About a fifth of pastors told the research group they have struggled with addiction in some form.

\* 50 percent were addicted to pornography, sex or both.

\* 17 percent to Alcohol and prescription drugs.

\* Tobacco addiction stood at 11 percent among pastors.

\* Food addiction and obesity is the #1 health problem with ministers.

\* Prescription drugs, drug abuse, and gambling addictions are escalating as ways of escape.

\* 90% of pastors are workaholics, burn a candle at both ends, working between 55-75 hrs weekly.

**QUESTION**: Are these statistics regarding persons and ministers in the body surprise you?

We are finding that people are becoming addicted to all kinds of things even without being aware of them. Things that Include chocolate, sweets, nicotine and caffeine, gambling, shopping, exercise, TV-watching and work and the list goes on. You see, many in our society and in the church have learned how to hide and function with their addictions and although they are not hooked on drugs or alcohol there are those as well as other addictions that many are bound by that are not as visible to those around us but at the same time are extremely damaging and dangerous. Many of these fall under the category of Silent Killers that I am choosing to call SILENT addictions because many of them can be practiced in the background and some can be perfectly legal but can cause great harm. They are addictions that the enemy uses that if they are not dealt with can serve to slowly but surely bring pain, frustration, debt, sickness, and eventual destruction to our lives and the lives of those around us.

 The Bible actually speaks about addictions both directly and indirectly in many of its pages in both the Old and the New Testament. The Garden of Eden story contains within in it the subtle way the enemy lures us into destructive behavior. We see it also in the life of Solomon and his excessive behavior. Frequently scripture refers to drunkards and gluttons. However there are very few that clearly outline the process of addiction like that of the writer in the proverbs when he wrote in

Proverbs 23:30-35

“Do not look on the wine when it is red. It Sparkles, goes down smoothly; then it bites like a serpent and stings like a viper. “

The description of alcohol here describes every addiction. It begins as an innocent quest for relief- it goes down smoothly- but like the sting of a viper, all unchecked addictions lead to death. Wether it is physical death, spiritual death, the death of a career, the death of a family, our health, marriage or financial death, all addictions can destroy lives.

 Our text and the man in it would rarely be used or seen as the victim of an addiction, yet when I looked closer at his actions I see in him many of the characteristics that lead to destructive behavior that is often times exhibited by one who is addicted. The story of the man we are speaking of is told in just four chapters of the book of Judges. At the beginning of his story in Judges 13 we find that God is fed up with his people and so disgusted with their disobedience and idolatry that he decided to hand them over to the Philistines thinking that perhaps if they were oppressed it would cause them to call upon the name of the Lord. Unfortunately, the children of Israel were unrepentant and actually became satisfied with living in their bondage yet God was so merciful that he decided to save them anyways. He decided to raise up a strong man to lead His unrepentant people out of bondage and that man was Samson. From the very beginning it was obvious that he was to be a special individual as his inception and birth to a Godly man and his formerly barren wife was announced by an angel. His parents were also given special instructions to raise this child under the laws of the Nazarite vow. That is, he was not to touch anything dead, not to drink strong drink and never to have a razor upon his head. As long as Samson remained true to this covenant he would possess a gift from God that gave him extraordinary strength. However, like a lot of gifted people, Samson was a target of the enemy who would use Samsons pride and arrogance against him. You see, Samson was the type that always enjoyed walking close to the line, he like to flirt with the devil and disaster. He had a nose for trouble and a knack for hair raising escapes. Samson, was a man who was so strong yet he was so weak. Samson, a man who performed great feats but in the end he accomplished very little. His name Samson means sunny as he was supposed to be a brilliant light to lead his people out of darkness but because of his constant desire to do things his own way we find the baddest boy in the bible losing it all as he laid in the lap of a woman named Delilah. He would share with this woman the secret of his strength which she would share with his enemies the Philistines who paid her off. He would have his hair shaved off that day which would cause him to lose his strength and end up in bondage, his eyes poked out, mocked by his enemies and doing the work of a mule going in circles. What I found to be interesting is that long before this moment in which he lost his hair that this was actually his forth time being in the lap of Delilah and her fourth attempt to find out Samson’s secret to have his enemies take him out. When I looked at this it caused me to ask a question.

**QUESTION**: What would make Samson keep going back to a woman who he knew was trying to kill him?

Then I thought about the many addictions that we wrestle with but end up going back to over and over again even though we know that they are sucking the life out of us, our relationships, our careers, our finances and our very existence, yet we return to them over and over again. Our text reveals to us some things that caused Samson to engage in addictive behavior that are still present to many who wrestle with this issue and we want to take a look at them in this message.

I. SAMSON DID NOT HAVE A HEALTHY OUTLET

Defining Addiction: Addiction is a term that is no longer linked only to drugs and alcohol. It now also encompasses a gamut of substance and behavior addictions and is a term used to describe the bondage that chains its victims to behaviors that can become compulsive.

**“The experience of being unable to immediately and permanently stop the use of something without suffering some degree of discomfort.” (Dr. Bernard Green)**

**The definition of process addiction is a compulsion to continually engage in an activity or behavior even though it creates significant negative consequences. Those consequences can include poor mental health, physical issues, problems with relationships, difficulty functioning in day-to-day life—or all of the above.**

Human Need-People do not set out to become an addict. Rather they desire to fill a natural need. In the beginning they seek a pleasurable substance or pastime to ease pain, bring a sense of relief to boredom or fill a void.

1 Timothy 3:2-3

**2 A bishop then must be blameless, the husband of one wife, vigilant, sober, of good behaviour, given to hospitality, apt to teach;3 Not given to wine, no striker, not greedy of filthy lucre; but patient, not a brawler, not covetous;**

given to wine paroinos- conjuring up the picture always found near the bottle.

prosche- to turn to. In the biblical sense an addict is one who always turn to a substance in the time of need.

**Question**: What are you always near and what do you turn to in the time of need? How do you spell relief?

* Food addictions: Where we eat to try to feel better knowing that it’s killing us.
* Excessive Spending- having bills to pay but throwing your money away on excesses.
* Abuse addictions: Where we don’t feel like we are being loved unless someone is treating us bad.
* Relationship addictions: Where we don’t feel like we are somebody unless we are with somebody
* Drugs and alcohol: functioning addicts in the church who go on binges or drink in the closet
* Sexual addicts: (heterosexual or homosexual) Can’t say no, often times trying to heal a low self esteem or past sexual violation that has you out of control. Trying to fill a void that your daddy your mother left in your life.
* Workaholics: Where your job is your god or you run there using it as your excuse to to not deal with problems at home.

**“There are all kinds of addicts, I guess. We all have pain. And we all look for ways to make the pain go away. (Sherman Alexie)**

**QUESTION:** DO YOU HAVE YOUR ESCAPE OR DOES YOUR ESCAPE HAVE YOU?

**SAMSON’S DANGEROUS ESCAPE:** Delilah was Samson’s Escape. Delilah- languishing and weak. Everyone has a weakness, a Delilah, that If we are not careful it can take us out.

HOW DO YOU SPELL RELIEF?

THE PROBLEM DEVELOPS WHEN YOUR ESCAPE WANTS TO KILL YOU

Judge 16:7

7 And Samson said unto her, If they bind me with seven green withs that were never dried, then shall I be weak, and be as another man. KJV

It was so bad for Samson that even when he knew that Delilah was trying to kill him he kept going back.

 **FIND YOURSELF SOME SAFE OUTLETS**

**Walk, workout, connect with Godly friend, movies, golf, sports, hobbies, fishing, bowling, writing, journaling, reading, spiritual disciplines: meditate on God, pray, prayer walks…**

II. SAMSON NEEDED ACCOUNTABILITY

One of the things missing from todays believers journey is accountability. No one today wants to answer to anyone. In the name of independence we have taken away one of the most effective tools of defense that God has given us WHICH IS ACCOUNTABILITY. One of the tricks of the enemy is to get us off into a corner to battle whatever binds us alone. That’s why most addictive behavior is done in secret, When we discover that we are struggling with an addiction we need to prayerfully covenant with someone to cover us, pray for us and strengthen us. Someone who is strong in our area of weakness.

**Galatians 6:1**

**“Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted.”**

When people are battling with things they need our compassion, sympathy, empathy, spirituality and strength.

Samson’s greatest problem was not women. That was a symptom of his problem. His real problem was a lack of earthly covenant. He never established earthly Covenant, never connected with anyone and was never accountable to anyone. One of the things killing Us today is what I call the fallacy of independence. The idea that we are suppose to always have it together, always be independently strong and never need anyone to make it.

**Deuteronomy 32:30 “If One chase a thousand two could chase 10,000…”**

**Ecclesiastes 4:9-12**

**9 Two are better than one; because they have a good reward for their labour. 10 For if they fall, the one will lift up his fellow: but woe to him that is alone when he falleth; for he hath not another to help him up.**

**Matthew 18:29 “If any two of you shall ….”**

Samson was gifted to be a deliverer for the nation but notice that Samson never once tried to rally his countrymen together in an organized attempt to overthrow the national Philistines. He was never a team player and could never connect with anyone. Famous Last words of an Addict- I don’t need anybody!! I’ll handle this myself! The devil will always work to keep us away from those who can help heal us. Samson never had a place where he could lay his head. I don’t care how mighty we may be every warrior has to have a place to lay his head.

David and Jonathan.

1 Sam 18:3-4

3 Then Jonathan and David made a covenant, because he loved him as his own soul. 4 And Jonathan stripped himself of the robe that was upon him, and gave it to David, and his garments, even to his sword, and to his bow, and to his girdle. KJV

Robe- vulnerable, naked before him, this is who I am.

Sword and his bow- I am not going to fight against you.

Girdle- I am putting aside all access to anything I might have hidden that could hurt you.

15 And she said unto him, How canst thou say, I love thee, when thine heart is not with me? thou hast mocked me these three times, and hast not told me wherein thy great strength lieth.16 And it came to pass, when she pressed him daily with her words, and urged him, so that his soul was vexed unto death; 17 That he told her all his heart, and said unto her. There hath not come a razor upon mine head; for I have been a Nazarite unto God from my mother's womb: if I be shaven, then my strength will go from me, and I shall become weak, and be like any other man.18 And when Delilah saw that he had told her all his heart, she sent and called for the lords of the Philistines, saying, Come up this once, for he hath shewed me all his heart. Then the lords of the Philistines came up unto her, and brought money in their hand.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. KJV

III. SAMSON NEEDED ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Denial- One of the Biggest Impediments to our deliverance is Denial

**Denial ain't just a river in Egypt.(Mark Twain)**

**“I think the greatest illusion we have is that denial protects us. It's actually the biggest distortion and lie. In fact, staying asleep is what's killing us.” (Eve Ensler)**

T.D Jakes “Naked But Not Ashamed” God will never heal what we will not expose.”

AL ANON- I AM AN ALCOHOLIC. I am Powerless over my addiction. Religious Arrogance- We think that because we’ve been in the church for so long that we are past anything being wrong with us.

Samson’s Denial

**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, (HAIR IS GONE) 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. 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.**

SAMSON’S ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

**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.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.**

1. Poked out his eyes: Took out his ability to see and to walk in vision.

2. Brought him down to Gaza- (stronghold) Bring you down to a stronghold

3. Bound him- take away your liberty in Christ.

4. Grinding in the Prison House- Going in circles doing time.

**Sign**

**Three things a real man is not supposed to say: I’m lost, I’m wrong and I can’t fix it.”**

**Three things man needs to say to get delivered. I’m lost, I’m wrong and I can’t fix it.”**