

Come As You Are (CAYA) Service #3
Wednesday, March 4, 2009
Rev. Howard-John Wesley, Alfred Street Baptist Church

Love Ain't Got Nothin' To Do With It

Call To Worship - Scripture reference – Hebrews 4:10-13

New International Version

10 for anyone who enters God's rest also rests from his own work, just as God did from his

11 Let us, therefore, make every effort to enter that rest, so that no one will fall by following their example of disobedience.

12 For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.

13 Nothing in all creation is hidden from God's sight. Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of him to whom we must give account.

The word of God is meant to expose ourselves

- God has a way of cutting us when we get close to His word

Purpose of CAYA services: Remove obstacles that get in our way with having a closer relationship with God and to convict

Review the prior two lessons on time and relationships.

1. Failure to prioritize time – especially time with God

2. Inappropriate relationships (48%)

a. These things “call” you away from your time with God

b. Learn to conquer your temptations

3. Personal weaknesses and addictions (26%)

4. Emotional issues (anger, insecurity, fear, etc.) (17%)

Scripture reference for this lesson: Judges 16.

Love is not enough to make a relationship last

- So much more has to last beyond the altar

In I Corinthians 7, Paul admonishes us to stay single:

32 I would like you to be free from concern. An unmarried man is concerned about the Lord's affairs—how he can please the Lord.

33 But a married man is concerned about the affairs of this world—how he can please his wife

34 and his interests are divided. An unmarried woman or virgin is concerned about the Lord's affairs: Her aim is to be devoted to the Lord in both body and spirit. But a married woman is concerned about the affairs of this world—how she can please her husband.

35 I am saying this for your own good, not to restrict you, but that you may live in a right way in undivided devotion to the Lord.

NOTE: Paul is not against us being married

- In romantic relationships, once love enters the relationship, it tends to compete with your relationship with God.
- Love lifts our relationship towards idolatry and we tend to “compromise” with our relationship with God.

- Every one of us has done something stupid because we *thought* we were in love.
 - Busted a window out
 - Lowered our standards
 - Showed up at a job
 - Neglected family and friends
 - This list goes on....

Background on Samson and Delilah

The relationship was never ordained by God.

There are two types of relationships:

1. God ordained relationships
2. Relationships we have allowed

In v20, Samson didn't know that the spirit of the Lord had left him.

Judges 16 is a mirror of an unhealthy and unholy relationship (the entire chapter)

- It's not an exhaustive "list", but it is eye-opening

If we want our relationships to be of God, this lesson will help with that.

Refer to the ME vs. WE investment from CAYA session #2:

[Relationships draw on two individuals from two different pasts and perspectives](#)

- [The struggle of ME vs. WE](#)
- [How much of ME do we invest in WE and what will be the return on WE with my ME investment.](#)

This lesson will be perceived differently for individuals: single persons vs. married persons.

- Marriage is a covenant relationship
- Whenever Paul talks to the wife in his letters, he also talks to the husband
- Every marriage has not been called together by God
- Struggle is necessary in marriage; Misery is not.

The story of Samson and Delilah is not a love story. **Love doesn't have a thing to do with what is going on here.**

- In v4, this is the beginning of the story and Samson was in love.
- Chapter 14, Samson had a first wife that he never declared his love for. He only married her because she "pleased him well".
- Chapter 15:1, Samson visited his wife – you only visit something you aren't connected to?!
- Samson engages in relationships that are **comfortable and convenient** vs. **being committed and sacrificing**.
- Samson's first wife was optional – he wanted that which was easy
- After the first wife dies, Samson runs up on Delilah
 - NOTE TO THE PLAYERS: No matter how good you think your game is, *someone* has one better. Believe that!
- No where in the scripture to you see that Delilah loved Samson (one-sided relationship).
 - This may offend some folks, but, please know, **you cannot fall in love by yourself**. True love requires two people moving the same direction towards the same destiny.
 - If you are willing to give 100% and none of that is reciprocated, check how you value yourself and your level of desperation.

- Some of us would rather settle for a piece of a person rather than the WHOLE person (entering in relationships with married folks, other person not giving at the same level towards the relationship, etc.)

Samson and Delilah came into the relationship from two different angles:

- Samson came into the relationship for love
- Delilah came into the relationship for money (security)

Be careful how you market yourself because how you market yourself will determine how you are used and valued in a relationship

- You present yourself in a tight skirt and a push-up bra, don't get new when the man only wants you for sex
- You flash money, cars and clothes around, don't get new when she only wants you for your money
- **The bait you put on the hook determines the fish your catch!**

Samson and Delilah go through a five-fold cycle that repeats itself three times:

1. Delilah asks Samson the secret of his strength
2. Samson lies to Delilah
3. She sets him up and calls in the Philistines to kill Samson
4. He defends himself and defeats the Philistines
5. She gets mad he lied

[Five Real Dysfunctional Relationship Dynamics with Samson and Delilah](#)

#1 She continuously tries to expose his weakness and once she finds it, she tells others

- Be careful of someone who exposes your weaknesses (makes jokes about your weaknesses, points it out in front of others, etc.) or is insensitive about serious struggles
- When this happens to us, we tend to hold back
- No relationship works when a person has to hold back

Samson falls asleep in Delilah's lap, she calls in the Philistines from the bedroom (*HUH?! You've got dudes IN YOUR HOUSE, IN YOUR BEDROOM (the most private area of your home), waiting to kill your husband?!).*

- Be careful who you expose your relationship's weaknesses with; it can be used against you; exposed information that can be used/aired and you don't even know about it.

#2 Samson knew he couldn't trust Delilah. So, he lies to her

- How far are you willing to give when you can't trust?
- If you know you can't trust them, why do you give to them?
- Adultery – the only reason for marriage to end, according to Paul
- Forgiveness and restoration are NOT the same thing.
- When trust is gone, the relationship is **dead**. When there is no trust, two things happen:
 - You will get tired of playing spy
 - The person you are spying on is going to get sick of being "on parole"

#3 The relationship was built with lies.

Lies damage relationships. A few reasons that people lie in relationships are as follows:

1. Irresponsibility – it's easier

2. Insecure – they really don't like who they are
3. As an insult – they can't tell the truth about themselves so they think that the other person can't handle it (most damaging). They are basically saying that the other person isn't mature enough.

#4 He refuses to believe what he knows that which is true

Delilah just wasn't any good! Samson was blind to what was presented in front of him. Eyes wide shut!

- Brothers want to believe they can control relationships and think, "Think can never happen to me"
 - What hurts most in relationships are the lies we tell ourselves.

NOTE: Relationships are not an opportunity to prove you are a good social worker! People have to want to change. You cannot change a grown person! Proverbs 18:22 – a woman is not a man's mother, but his WIFE.

There are always those persons that will manipulate your kindness.

#5 Delilah gets angry when Samson lies

In a budding relationship, you never know the REAL person until they get angry.

Anger:

1. **Men** tend to become physical which can lead to disrespect (refer to when Samson referred to his wife as a heifer). Disrespect is a sign of abuse on the way. If a person cannot control their physical self angry, it is a sign of immaturity.
2. **Women** become psychologically manipulative when angry.

At the end of Samson's life, Delilah cuts his hair and he didn't even know the Lord had left him. The Philistines gouged Samson's eyes out. **Question:** What was Delilah doing when they were doing this to him? COUNTING HER MONEY!

Question: How can a mate be happy when the other mate is in pain? It shows that the other person's feelings don't matter.

- It says one of two things:
 1. It doesn't matter
 2. Not their responsibility

Some good did come out of this story. After Samson was arrested, his hair (where his strength was) began to grow back. This tells us that after all we do, God can still restore us.

Housekeeping notes:

1. April's CAYA service will be held the **third** Wednesday (APRIL 15th), instead of the first Wednesday. Please make that change in your personal calendars. The lesson will be around *I Need That Back*.
2. May's CAYA lesson will be around *Let's Talk About Sex*.
3. June's CAYA lesson will be around *Can You Hear Me Now* (communication breakdown and patterns).