

Sermon Notes – May 31, 2026

Called By Name

Week 7: Blinded By Compromise

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SCRIPTURE: Judges 16:15-22 NLT

“¹⁵Then Delilah pouted, “How can you tell me, ‘I love you,’ when you don’t share your secrets with me? You’ve made fun of me three times now, and you still haven’t told me what makes you so strong!” ¹⁶She tormented him with her nagging day after day until he was sick to death of it. ¹⁷Finally, Samson shared his secret with her. “My hair has never been cut,” he confessed, “for I was dedicated to God as a Nazirite from birth. If my head were shaved, my strength would leave me, and I would become as weak as anyone else.” ¹⁸Delilah realized he had finally told her the truth, so she sent for the Philistine rulers. “Come back one more time,” she said, “for he has finally told me his secret.” So the Philistine rulers returned with the money in their hands. ¹⁹Delilah lulled Samson to sleep with his head in her lap, and then she called in a man to shave off the seven locks of his hair. In this way she began to bring him down,^[a] and his strength left him. ²⁰Then she cried out, “Samson! The Philistines have come to capture you!” When he woke up, he thought, “I will do as before and shake myself free.” But he didn’t realize the Lord had left him. ²¹So the Philistines captured him and gouged out his eyes. They took him to Gaza, where he was bound with bronze chains and forced to grind grain in the prison. ²²But before long, his hair began to grow back.”

1) Compromise Blinds Slowly

- Called: Samson was called and set apart with a divine purpose even before birth. (Judges 13:5).

- Compromise is one of the greatest killers of calling and purpose.

- “... But he didn’t realize the Lord had left him.” – Judges 16:20

- Samson’s downfall didn’t begin with Delilah; it began with small compromises against what God had already spoken over his life.

- Compromise rarely happens all at once. What we repeatedly entertain eventually weakens us.

- You cannot live set apart while constantly flirting with what God called you away from.

- Compromise slowly blinded him to who God called him to be. It can do the same with us!

- Small compromises can weaken a big calling!

- Samson was blind to the areas of compromise in his life! Are there areas of compromise that we are blind to in our lives?

- Are there areas of temptation, blurred boundaries, misaligned priorities, or sin that are subtly stealing your purpose and vision for all that God has for your life?

2) Dump Your ‘Delilahs’

- We need to dump our ‘Delilahs’ and guard our calling.

- Calling requires consecration. We are called to live worthy of what God has placed on our lives (Eph. 4:1).

- We need to remember that calling without consecration eventually leads to compromise.

- Samson wanted the calling without the consecration. Do we have a similar struggle?

- God is still setting us apart. He is still placing "guard rails/boundaries" on our lives to help set us apart for His purposes.

- We need to make it a priority in our lives to guard our calling and set healthy boundaries with our: hearts; habits; prayer life; integrity; thoughts; and relationships.

3) Restored Vision

- "But before long, his hair began to grow back." – Judges 16:22

- Small compromises can slowly blind us to God's calling but surrender and repentance can restore vision and purpose!

- Samson stopped depending on his own strength and started crying out to God again!

- Samson still carried the scars and consequences of compromise, but his failure was not final when he cried out to and depended on God again.

- Sometimes God must remove what we depended on so we can rediscover who we were called to be.