

Sermon Title: **“SAMSON’S RIDDLE”**

Judges 14:12-20

- Samson puts forth a riddle to those at the marriage feast
  - “Riddle” = comes from the Greek root word for “To Knot”
- Proposing a riddle at a feast was often a normal occurrence & there was normally a wager that was placed on this riddle as well
- Here was Samson’s stipulations to the riddle:
  - If the attendees of the marriage feast can give Samson an answer within 7 days, then Samson would give them 30 linen wraps & 30 changes of clothes
  - “Linen Wrap” = either meant a nice night shirt or a nice bed sheet
  - “Change of Clothes” = this was a nice suit that was worn in the day (out in public)
  - If these guests were unable to answer the riddle, then Samson would receive from EACH 1 linen sheet & 1 change of clothing
- After 3 days NO one had yet come up with the answer
  - With the marriage feast half over, concern crept in & these guests have a conversation with Samson’s wife
  - “Entice your husband” = Persuade Samson; manipulate him
  - Feeling exploited & probably even facing embarrassment has led these men to being hostile & angry
- Samson’s soon-to-be-wife trying to get answers uses 2 manipulative methods:
  - 1) Crying
  - 2) Emotionally driven words
- The mere sight of Samson started the streams of sorrow
  - After seeing her respond this way for 4 days, Samson finally cracks
- Samson goes down to Ashkelon (probably during another marriage feast)
  - Samson was going to use these “spoils” to pay off his debt with those at his own marriage feast
- While Samson was away, the woman, who was Samson’s soon-to be-wife, was given by her father to the friend of the bridegroom