

## How a Riddle Wrecked a Wedding

### Judges 14

#### **The secret purpose of the Lord, 14:1-4**

- This chapter is filled with secrets (telling/not telling): 14x verb *to tell*.
- God has a secret purpose for Samson's sinful wedding (Dt. 7:3); His purpose can come through sinful actions, Gen. 50:20, Acts 4:27,28.

#### **The secret of slaying the lion, 14:5,6**

- What does the Spirit's enablement suggest about fighting Philistines?
- Why the secrecy about killing a lion? Why not tell his parents?

#### **The secret of the honey, 14:7-9**

- Surprise! Honey in the lion's carcass! It's nice to share, but . . .
- Why the secrecy about the origin of the honey? See Lv. 5:2, 11:24ff.

#### **The secret of the riddle, 14:10-18**

- The Philistines provide groomsmen/attendants (*my people*, v.16).
- Why the riddle? Again Samson won't tell his parents. His secrecy extends to his bride who is blackmailed by the cheating Philistines.
- His bride's pleading foreshadows Delilah's enticing pleas, 16:15,16.

#### **The slaying of the thirty, 14:19,20**

- Why attack far off Ashkelon rather than Philistines in Ekron or Gath?
- Again, Spirit enablement here reinforces deliverance is a given.



What does this episode suggest about raising our children?

How might the lack of communication between Samson and his parents be impacting his choices?

We should not ignore "lions" we face! What might that mean for us?