

Separation to Fully Focus on the Lord

Numbers 6:1 And the Lord spake unto Moses, saying, 2 Speak unto the children of Israel, and say unto them, When either man or woman shall separate *themselves* to **vow a vow of a Nazarite, to separate themselves unto the Lord:**

- Chapter 5 talked about suspicion and conviction now chapter 6 speaks of consecration and purification
 - There can't really be ministry unless there is first moral purity
 - Don't confuse the Nazarite with the Nazarene.
 - Jesus was a Nazarene because He came from Nazareth
- John 1:45 Philip findeth Nathanael, and saith unto him, We have found him, of whom Moses in the law, and the prophets, did write, **Jesus of Nazareth**, the son of Joseph. 46 And Nathanael said unto him, **Can there any good thing come out of Nazareth?** Philip saith unto him, Come and see.
- Nazarite means to be set apart, to dedicate

- Nazarites could not touch dead bodies nor drink or eat from anything of the vine. Jesus did both
- A Nazarite vow was when someone separated themselves for a period of time to totally focus on the Lord
- The majority of Nazarite vows would last a month but could last a year or longer
- The idea of separation is used about 16 times in this chapter

1. Separating themselves unto the Lord **6:2** *Speak unto the children of Israel, and say unto them, When either man or woman shall separate *themselves* to **vow a vow of a Nazarite, to separate *themselves* unto the Lord:***

- a. The Nazarite was determined to stay away from anything that might intoxicate them **3** *He shall **separate himself from wine and strong drink,** and shall drink no vinegar of wine, or vinegar of strong drink, neither shall he drink any liquor of grapes, nor eat moist grapes, or dried. **4** All the days of his separation **shall***

he eat nothing that is made of the vine tree, from the kernels even to the husk.

- i. Alcohol or the grape fermented might affect their judgment **Proverbs 31:4** ***It is not for kings, O Lemuel, it is not for kings to drink wine;*** Nor for princes **strong drink:** ⁵ Lest they drink, and **forget the law, And pervert the judgment** of any of the afflicted. ⁶ **Give strong drink** unto him that is **ready to perish,** And wine unto those that be of **heavy hearts.** ⁷ Let him drink, and **forget his poverty,** And remember his misery no more.
- ii. God's leaders should stay away from anything that might cause them to forget the Law or pervert judgment

b. The Nazarite was was publicly identified as such **5 All the days of the vow of his separation there shall no razor**

come upon his head: until the days be fulfilled, in the which he separateth *himself* unto the Lord, he shall be holy, *and* shall let the locks of the hair of his head grow.

- i. It would be easy to see who had taken the vow of a Nazarite
 - ii. We should be ready to be easily identified as believers today
 - iii. Letting people know who we are will help us not get off course or in trouble as easily
- c. The Nazarite would practice a difficult separation **6 All the days that he separateth *himself* unto the Lord **he shall come at no dead body.**** **7** He shall not make himself unclean for his father, or for his mother, for his brother, or for his sister, when they die: because the consecration of his God *is* upon his head.
- i. He could not get near death, not even the death of his closest family members
 - ii. Our love for the Lord Jesus must make our love for others seem like hatred in comparison **Luke 14:26 If**

any *man* come to me, and **hate** not his father, and mother, and wife, and children, and brethren, and sisters, yea, and his own life also, **he cannot be my disciple.** Matthew 10:34 Think not that I am come to send peace on earth: I came **not to send peace, but a sword.** ³⁵ For I am come to set a man **at variance against** his father, and the daughter against her mother, and the daughter in law against her mother in law. ³⁶ And a man's foes *shall be* they of **his own household.** ³⁷ He that **loveth** father or mother more than me is **not worthy of me:** and he that **loveth** son or daughter more than me is **not worthy of me.** ³⁸ And he that taketh not his cross, and followeth after me, is **not worthy of me.** ³⁹ He that findeth his life shall lose it: and he that loseth his life for my sake shall find it.

- iii. We are to be separate from sin and that will often be quite difficult

iv. You may be required to take stands that will hurt even in your family

d. He is separated to the Lord, holy to Him **8 All the days of his separation he is holy unto the Lord.**

i. Separation is always both positive and negative

ii. Positively we are devoted to God

iii. Negatively we are abstaining from things that do not please God

iv. The goal is to glorify the Lord Jesus and to obey His Word

v. They were not isolating themselves from society but witnessing to others the importance of being totally devoted to the Lord

2. The Nazarite could always start over! **9 And if any man die very suddenly by him, and he hath defiled the head of his consecration;** then he shall shave his head

in the day of his **cleansing**, on the seventh day shall he shave it.

a. If someone broke the vow

i. They were to shave their head

ii. They were to bring a sin offering **10** And on the eighth day he shall bring two turtles, or **two young pigeons**, to the priest, to the door of the tabernacle of the congregation: **11** And the priest shall offer the one for a **sin offering**, and the other for a **burnt offering**, and make an **atonement for him**, for that he sinned by the dead, and shall hallow his head that same day.

iii. The days of service would be lost **12** And he shall consecrate unto the Lord the days of his separation, and shall **bring a lamb** of the first year for a trespass offering: but **the days that were before shall be lost**, because his **separation was defiled**.

1. Though he has lost ground and will start over he is forgiven
 2. The lamb he brings speaks of the Lord Jesus Christ dying for us
- iv. Though the vow had been defiled the person could start over
- b. There was forgiveness
 - c. Life was not over
 - d. Failure could be overcome
 - e. Things happen. A vow might be defiled by accident
 - f. There was a remedy
 - i. The person had to wait a week
 - ii. Then on the 7th day they would shave their head
 - iii. The defiled hair had to go
 - iv. The defiled person came and made a sacrifice
 - v. They were then able to rededicate themselves
 - g. No failure was permanent. The victorious Christian life is a series of new beginnings

3. The vow completed **13** *And this is the law of the Nazarite, when the days of his separation **are fulfilled:** he shall be brought unto the door of the tabernacle of the congregation:*
- a. When the vow was completed they came to the door of the tabernacle
 - b. They brought an offering to the Lord **14** *And he shall offer his offering unto the Lord, one he lamb of the first year without blemish for a burnt offering, and one ewe lamb of the first year without blemish for a sin offering, and one ram without blemish for peace offerings,*
 - i. A male lamb, a female lamb, and a ram
 - ii. Each was for a different offering
 - 1. Burnt offering was a symbol of total dedication
 - 2. Sin offering because no matter what you do it doesn't make you sinless
 - 3. Peace offering was a fellowship offering **15** *And a basket of unleavened bread, cakes of fine flour mingled with oil, and wafers of unleavened bread anointed with oil, and their meat offering, and their drink offerings.*

4. The priests got a part of the offerings. This was one of the ways that they were supported
 - c. Next they shaved the Nazarite's head and placed his hair on the altar in the fire **18 And the Nazarite shall shave the head of his separation at the door of the tabernacle of the congregation, and shall take the hair of the head of his separation, and put it in the fire which is under the sacrifice of the peace offerings.**
 - d. Their was a celebration and fellowship meal together for the completion of the vow
 - e. Remember that salvation is never a reward for anything you do. Keeping the vow was something that they did already as the people of God
 - f. They were giving to God and not getting from Him
4. Applications that I can make in my life from this passage
 - a. I should want to be fully consecrated and dedicated to the Lord Jesus
 - b. Separating myself from sin and to the Lord should be a deep heart desire for me

- c. Stay away from things that might draw you away from loving Jesus
 - i. There are steps you should take to protect your relationship just like there are in your marriage
 - ii. It is not a matter of rules but of love
- d. Do not be embarrassed to be publicly identified as belonging to Jesus
- e. Realize that serving God and loving Him can cause you to have to make decisions and do difficult things
- f. Don't let separation become such a goal that it isolates you from people who you could help if you would simply get out there
- g. Know that you can start over. It is not over. You are not a failure. You may have failed but get up and get started again.
- h. Realize that giving is a real part of serving and sacrifice. When they did anything it involved taking an offering to the Lord