

Guidelines for the Exercise of the Lord's day Prophesying
Message 5: God's Desire for all His People to be Today's Nazarites

I. Overview:

Among the human race, the unique Nazarite is the Lord Jesus; in His human living, the Lord Jesus ate the butter and honey all His life; that enabled Him to choose the good things of the Father's will and refuse the evil. In order to be a Nazarite, one must abstain from all kinds of earthly enjoyment and pleasure, not shave the head but subject to the headship of the Lord as well as to all deputy authorities appointed by God, overcome natural affection, and be saved from defilement of death. There is a contrast in the Scriptures of two Nazarites. Samuel was one with God; as the acting God, a priest, a prophet, a judge, a man of prayer, and a man according to God's heart. Samson is a negative example of a Nazarite; he is an illustration of one who moved in the Spirit of power but not in the Spirit of life and his failure is because of indulging in fleshly lusts to be damaged to the uttermost.

II. Truth and Enlightenment:

Day 1 —

A. Why did the Lord know to reject the world and choose God's will?

Isaiah 7:15 tells us that He ate butter and honey all His life. Butter is the richest food, while honey is the sweetest food. All the time, God placed before Christ the rich grace and gave Him to taste the sweet love. This is why He could obey God and choose His will. This is why He could reject the evil and choose the good.

B. Illustrate, explain how the Lord ate butter and honey to have a choosing ability.

At the age of twelve, our Lord went with His parents to Jerusalem for the feast. After that His parents returned, but He still remained in Jerusalem, then later He said to them, "Did you not know that I must be in the things of My Father?" Because the Lord had eaten butter and honey, He knew Father already at that age. He had received the richest and the sweetest and was living in God's will.

Day 2 —

A. Explain that God desires all of His people be Nazarites.

To be a Nazarite is to be sanctified absolutely and ultimately to God. To be sanctified in this way is to be for nothing other than God. He wants us to have no one else and nothing else other than Him as our first love and our unique love. The matter of the Nazarite is a test of our absoluteness. If we would be a Nazarite, we must be absolutely, utterly, and ultimately for God.

B. Explain what differs between the priest by birth and the Nazarite by himself.

The priests, who are such by birth, are ordained by God out of His initiation. This is according to God's ordination. One's becoming a priest is a matter of God's initiation; it does not depend on what the person does but on what God does concerning him. The Nazarite, who becomes such by a vow, is separated to God by himself out of his initiation. Today we are in the Lord's recovery out of God's initiation and also out of our initiation.

Day 3 —

A. Explain the spiritual meaning of the Nazarite with no razor passing over his head.

Not shaving the head for the Nazarite signifies not rejecting the headship of the Lord. To be a Nazarite we must be absolutely under the headship of the Lord. The Nazarite was to let his hair grow long freely, that is, he was to remain in subjection to the Lord's headship, wherein is the power. For there is no authority except from God, and those which exist are ordained by God. So then he who resists the authority opposes God's ordination.

B. How should we know the deputy authorities of God's ordination?

The fallen race is a rebellious race. The rebellious nature is still within us. Thus, it would be dangerous to be in a situation in which there is no deputy authority. The entire government is a deputy authority representing God's authority. Teachers, employers, and police officers are deputy authorities. Everywhere on earth there is deputy authority.

Day 4 —

A. Compare what differs between sin and death to affect the church life.

We do not realize how dirty and defiling death is. In the church life, sin may come in to defile the church and damage the saints, but more often we are defiled by death. Death is something hidden and often just right beside us. Sin brings in condemnation, which affects our conscience. However, death is not a matter of condemnation. Rather, death is a matter that deadens us and makes us dead.

B. How can we do when we come to a meeting, sense deadness there?

If we are living in the Spirit in every way, when we come to a meeting, we may immediately have the sense that deadness is there. At such a time we need to pray very much to counter that deadening situation: “Lord, cover me with Your blood against any deadening, against any spiritual deadness.” We must fight against deadness with a prayer that fights against the enemy.

Day 5 —

A. What kind of the spiritual revelation did Hannah's prayer grant us?

Hannah's prayer was an echo, a speaking out, of the heart's desire of God. It was a human cooperation with the divine move for the carrying out of God's eternal economy. As long as God can gain such a person, He has a way on earth. Hannah's prayer indicates that God's move with His answer to Hannah's prayer was to produce a Nazarite who was absolute for the fulfilling of God's desire.

B. What are the five statuses Samuel ministered in?

Samuel ministered in five statuses: (1) as a Nazarite consecrated to God absolutely; (2) as a priest faithful to act on behalf of God; (3) as a prophet established by God to speak the word of God; (4) as a judge established by God to carry out God's governmental administration; and (5) as a man of prayer who prayed for God's elect that they would be kept in the way of God.

Day 6 —

A. Describe that Samuel was a pure and single person.

He never sought to gain anything for himself. He had no heart for anything besides God and God's elect. God loved Israel, and His heart was duplicated in Samuel. Because God's heart was duplicated in Samuel, Samuel did not care for his own interest or gain. Due to the situation at the time, Samuel appointed his sons to be judges, but he had no intention to build up a kingdom for them.

B. What did the Nazarite Samson's negative example warn us?

When the Bible speaks of Samson and the other judges, it often says that the Spirit of God rushed upon them. A Nazarite does not need rushing power; rather, a Nazarite needs a heart that is a reflection of God's heart.

Jehovah's Spirit came upon Samson; there is no doubt that he had the real power of God. Nevertheless, he and so many of the judges had no control over their indulgence in lust.

III. Conclusion:

In order to be participated in the numbering and forming into a God's army, Numbers 5 demands our chastity and chapter 6 requires our absoluteness to become a Nazarite who is absolute for the fulfilling of God's desire. As a Nazarite is one who is consecrated to God absolutely, one who takes God as the Head, being absolutely subject to the headship of the Lord, and one who has no interest in the enjoyment of worldly pleasures, overcomes natural affection, and is totally separated from all kinds of spiritual death. It is impossible for us fallen people to make it, but only needs us to learn from the Lord Jesus as an unique Nazarite. In His human living, the Lord Jesus ate butter and honey all the days of His life; this richest grace and sweetest love of the Father enabled Him to choose the good things of the Father's will and refuse the evil, making Him an absolute Nazarite.