

renouncing it. He never came to that moment when he said, "I do here and now renounce this Nazarite vow. I no longer feel like being bound to this narrow life--this different life."

No. It was a gradual, deceiving way. Here was a little temptation; here was a door and a larger temptation. First Samson took a Philistine wife. He not yoked together with an unbeliever." Well, he rationalized and justified his action: Now I shall have a natural end with the Philistines.

I shall take advantage of this relationship to learn about what will bring about their downfall." Little did he realize that he compromised his first step and this would bring about his downfall. Quite often these little acts, these little deeds, these little words and little lies that people speak, they rationalize. But how often do you take the position that you will help God?

Samson did not see himself compromised as he feasted among the Philistines, associated with them on a social basis; no longer did he go to battle with them; he no longer fought. But he met a lion and tore it apart with his bare hands, and a few days later, he took out honey. All along the way he was separating himself and he violated another part of the vow at this point because he was instructed not to touch any dead thing. Without hesitation, he had scooped

I.

Like John the Baptist, Samson was born in answered prayer. His birth was announced by the angel; he was dedicated before his birth to serve the Lord God. All of his life had been destined to serve God and to conquer for God. Is this not the purpose of God for everyone of us? Did He not save us and call us out of the world for conquest? Does He not intend that every believer should live a continuous life over the world.

God had said to Manoah and his wife, "The child shall be a Nazarite (Judges 13:7)". Now, this was an all-inclusive consecration of life from birth to death--a separation to the Lord. Especially were there three conditions marking the life of a Nazarite. First, in Chapter 6 of the Book of Numbers, he was to be a total abstainer from wine and strong drink. Second, during all the days of the vows of separation no razor was to come upon his head. Third, he was not to touch any dead thing or be defiled with that which is a type of spiritual death.

In other words, here is a separation--a certain type of life separated unto a totally different type of life to be separated unto that service of God--that life which is compatible with God.

II