

Text: Judges

Title: Guarding The Heart

Topic: "Small" Compromises

- Spiritual decline does not happen_____.
- Where have you seen yourself or other people justify small compromises so much so that it causes one to forget their God given calling?
- Judges 13:1-5, "And the people of Israel again did what was evil in the sight of the Lord, so the Lord gave them into the hand of the Philistines for forty years. There was a certain man of Zorah, of the tribe of Danites, whose name was Manoah. And his wife was barren and had no children.

And the angel of the Lord appeared to the woman and said to her, "Behold, you are barren and have not borne children, but you shall conceive and bear a son. Therefore be careful and drink no wine or strong drink, and eat nothing unclean, for behold, you shall conceive and bear a son. No razor shall come upon his head, for the child shall be a Nazarite to God from the womb, and he shall begin to save Israel from the hand of the Philistines."

➤ Israel's cycle: rebellion, leading to oppression, leading to a cry for help, leading to deliverance. Repeat.

➤ The name Nazarite comes from the Hebrew word nazir, meaning "consecrated" or "separated."

➤ Numbers 6:1-8. "And the Lord spoke to Moses, saying, "Speak to the people of Israel and say to them, when either a man or a woman makes a special vow, the vow of a Nazirite, to separate himself to the Lord, he shall separate himself from wine and strong drink. He shall drink no vinegar made from wine or strong drink and shall not drink any juice of grapes or eat grapes, fresh or dried. All the days of his separation he shall eat nothing that is produced by the grapevine, not even the seeds or the

skins. All the days of his vow of separation, no razor shall touch his head. Until the time is completed for which he separates himself to the Lord, he shall be holy. He shall let the locks of hair of his head grow long. All the days that he separates himself to the Lord he shall not go near a dead body. Not even for his father or for his mother, for brother or sister, if they die, shall he make himself unclean, because his separation to God is on his head. All the days of his separation he is holy to the Lord.

➤ The three pillars of the Nazarite vow

- Avoid fruit of the vine
- Let your hair grow uncut
- Never touch a dead body under any circumstances.

➤ Judges 14:1-4. 1 "Samson went down to Timnah, and at Timnah he saw one of the daughters of the Philistines. 2 Then he came up and told his father and mother, "I saw one of the daughters of the Philistines at Timnah. Now get her for me as my wife." 3 But his father and mother said to him, "Is there not a woman among the daughters of your relatives, or among all our people, that you must go to take a wife from the uncircumcised Philistines?" but Samson said to his father, "Get her for me, for she is right in my

eyes." 4 His father and mother did not know that it was from the Lord, for he was seeking an opportunity against the Philistines. At that time the Philistines ruled over Israel.

- ☐ _____ begins.
- ☐ _____ over our _____.

➤ Judges 14:5-9. 5 "Then Samson went down with his father and mother to Timnah, and they came to the vineyards of Timnah. And behold, a young lion came toward him roaring. 6 Then the Spirit of the Lord rushed upon him, and although he had nothing in his hand, he tore the lion in pieces as one tears a young goat. But he did not tell his father or his mother what he had done. 7 Then he went down and talked with the woman, and she was right in Samson's eyes. 8 After some days he returned to take her. And he turned aside to see the carcass of the lion, and behold, there was a swarm of bees in the body of the lion, and honey. 9 He scraped it out into his hands and went on, eating as he went. And he came to his father and mother and gave some to them, and they ate. But he did not tell them that he had scraped the honey from the carcass of the lion

- ☐ The _____ defilement.
- ☐ The _____.

➤ Question 1. How can we audit our own lives to ensure our private character matches our public presentation?

➤ Question 2. In what ways are we assimilating into the ungodly culture around us to the point we know longer recognize we are being oppressed or influenced by it?

➤ Question 3. What are some examples of sweet honey that requires us to compromise our spiritual purity or boundaries to taste?

