

Series - A Youth Day Message

Date/s - 3 Jul 2016

Topic - The Nazirites – The Rising Fire of the Called Out Ones

Speaker/s - Pastor Joachim Tan

Welcome [15 min]

You may want to look up the following websites for *icebreakers* suitable for your cell.

www.thesource4ym.com/games/

www.christianitytoday.com/smallgroups/articles/icebreakersbeyond.html < go to LEAD, click on ICEBREAKERS >

Worship [15 min]

You may select songs like “Purify My Soul” or “Search Me, O God”

Spiritual Objectives

At the end of the cell discussion, cell members will:

1. Understand the characteristics of a “Nazirite” Christian.
2. Take steps to live out a consecrated life.

Word [45 min]

Pastor Joachim shared about his conviction on going on a fast for 40 days and to live a called out life. He also shared about the Nazirite vow and how one can keep himself consecrated for God. We must set ourselves apart for God so that we are always ready to carry out His work. He started the sermon by quoting Psalm 50:5 and Psalm 50:15. God wants to set apart a generation of ‘the called-out’ ones, those who are consecrated to Him.

Pastor Joachim shared that there are three main characteristics of the Nazirites:

- 1) they are the called out ones who choose to deny themselves the pleasure of this world for the supreme goal of experiencing God (Numbers 6:3) – Ps Joachim cited Moses, Daniel and Jonathan Edwards. These men of God did not compromise but continued to dwell in the holiness of God by denying themselves the things of the world. The Nazirites deny their flesh by avoiding eating fresh or dried grapes, vinegar, wine or strong drinks so that he might be set apart for God. They pursued God every day.
- 2) The Nazirites are always ready for the spiritual battle (Ephesians 6:11 to 12 and Numbers 6:5) – It was common then for a soldier not to cut his hair before he went into battle. Soldiers are prepared to fight all the time. During the 9/11 terrorist attack, the firefighters were prepared to risk their lives to rescue anyone from buildings that were unsafe. The decision they made at the risk of their own lives was made from the day that they had accepted the job. They already knew the consequences of their job missions way ahead, and hence did not avoid when being confronted. Just like the Nazirites and the firefighters, we need to prepare and set ourselves apart for the holy things of God so that when we are called, we are readily prepared.
- 3) The Nazirite answers the call to absolute purity and holiness (Numbers 6:6 to 7). They were not to go near or touch a dead body, even if it was that of their parents’. Are we avoiding unclean things and sins so that we are being set apart to do the things of God? How seriously and intensive are we pursuing the holiness of God? We need to be conscious of what we are doing, thinking, walking and talking so as

to avoid doing things that might displease God. We must always be conscious and practise the holiness of God.

Lastly, Ps Joachim shared Revelation 2:18 to 22, 26 which talk about the unrepentant Thyatira Church. The promise in verse 26 is that if those in the church overcame and keep God's deeds until the end, God will give them the authority over the nations. That is the key for us to reach the nations for God.

What are we waiting for? Let us be ready and remain pure and holy so that God can use us for His purposes.

Discussion Questions

1 What caught your attention as you listen to the sermon about being a Nazirite, one who is set apart or consecrated for God? [10 min]

Leader's Notes: A Recap question to encourage light sharing and to open up for discussion. Leader may use this opportunity to find out what it means to be "set apart for God". Consecration takes a lifetime. It is not about a 40-day fast or 15 minutes of quiet time. It must be consistent and genuine. We must also be conscious about the presence of God in whatever we do. Only then, are we able to keep ourselves consecrated or set apart for God's purposes.

"Nazirite: Being set apart, purified, made to reflect the glory of God, raised above the norm, and given authority over the nation. - John Mulinde." *"Nazirite: Nazirities are special people... That God will raise up when His people have turned toward spiritual and moral decay. - Lou Engle"*

2 a. What would a "Nazirite" Christian with the 3 characteristics be like? [10 min]
b. When we serve God or do ministry, is being 'consecrated' important? Why? [10 min]

a. Leader's Notes: A Relate question. Have each member share on at least one characteristic. What would a believer be like if he/she is set apart:

- Deny themselves the pleasures of this world to experience God. This is counter-cultural and requires a commitment to stand firm on God's Word against the prevailing worldviews in today's society.
- Always ready for spiritual battle. A consecrated Christian is someone who has decided to follow Jesus all the way and not looking back to his past, the things that he has left behind. A believer who understands God's commission in his life and is willing to make his life count for Kingdom's purposes. See Ephesians 6:11 to 12.
- Answers the call for absolute purity and holiness. A consecrated Christian is committed to holiness and to have a pure heart. He measures himself against the precept and statutes of the Lord. He will seek God thoroughly in the Word so that he has a plumb line to measure himself against.

b. Leader's Notes : A relate & reflect question. Pastor Joachim urges us to take up the 'Nazirite' calling and to rise up where we are. To be consecrated is taking that first step. When it comes to serving God in any capacity or strength, we are first His chosen sons and daughters (royal priesthood, 1 Peter 2:9) and that we are created in Christ Jesus for good works (Ephesians 2:10). God desires us to be partners with Him in His kingdom work. When we embrace our identity and embark on God's commission – being involved in the work of the ministry of reconciliation and to bring the gospel to all nations which shall be accomplished. Hence, it is not so much as how 'consecrated' we are (ie how much we have 'sacrificed' or 'devoted' ourselves to do ministry); rather it is how we are becoming more and more 'consecrated'. We will be more single-minded, having more passion for the Cross and compassion for the lost.

Hebrews 12:1-2 "Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us,

looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.”

- 3 **Read Hebrews 12:1-2. Suggest how we can “lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely,..” particularly those which affect your devotion towards God or in your ministry. Spend some time praying for one another.** [10 min]

Leader’s Notes: *This is a response question. Allow members to reflect in areas of life (burdens or sins) that they wish to consecrate unto the Lord and to overcome the issues: priorities, handling conflicts, family time, workplace challenges, self-indulgence, motives and attitudes in relationships with God, loved ones or in ministry, cell or church... etc..etc... Pray for one another and the leader can sum up why it is important to set aside time and resources to pursue holiness of God.*

Works [10 min]

Let’s pray:

1. Every RiverLifer make life commitment to live out a consecrated life.

Announcement

1. Precept Bible Study Class

Tues, 2 Aug – 20 Sep | 8 – 10pm

Registration started last Sunday, 3 Jul.

Topic 3: Rising to the call of leadership (6 weeks, course fee: \$11)

Topic 4: The essentials of effective prayer (6 weeks, course fee: \$11)

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