

It is strange in our day that Christian people have no idea of separation as a separation from something—nothing more. If one can say that there are certain things one does not do, this is to them a separated life. It may be only half separation and the least important half. Separation from certain things has value only as it sets one free to be separated unto God and His service. It is a fatal error to ignore either of two possibilities—one may be separated from and not separated unto, or one may be separated unto yet, not think it necessary to be separated from. Either error is tragic.

Samson's vow brought separation from certain things, as we have noted, and enabled him to use every power for the glory of God. It brought him great strength, for when God calls one, He prepares one. Never does He bid a man serve Him in some capacity without equipping him for service. It is true of every child of God.

Samson knew his call. He realized fully that his extraordinary endowments were the gifts of God. He started out well. There was the mixture of humor and of fear. Can't you just hear the laughter when he conceived the idea of tying 300 jackals, attaching fire-brands to their tails, and sending them to the fields of corn?

Or slaying a thousand Philistine warriors with the jawbone of an ass? A man unafraid on the battlefield of an army, who could move a huge iron gate that stood at the entrance of Gaza. He was feared as he moved among the countrys of the Philistine. In behalf of God in Timnath, Shkelon, Gaza, Hebron are there places where your name should be remembered because of your spiritual power to the glory of God because of your obedience in the face of strong temptations, in the face of a difficult task?

We must ask a very crucial question, How did such a consecrated man come from such a consecrated life, and to fail so utterly, and to dishonor the name of his God? Gradually, no doubt, Samson forgot his vow to God. First there was compromise. His conscience was probably a little disturbed over his early trifling with God's will.

Have you made a vow to God? In moments when the spirit of God found your heart tender and receptive, did you say, "By God's grace from this day henceforth, it shall be thus." What happened? Did the spirit of God let you down? Did God forsake you, or did you find it easy one day just to forget that you ever made such a vow?

Samson renounced his vow of separation without actually