



“Breaking the Cycle with Grace”

Lesson 5: Salvation of a Patient God (Part 4)

February 4

Introduction



Answer this riddle: “*Out of the eater, something to eat; out of the strong, something sweet.*”

Read Numbers 6:1-8. The vow of the Nazarite was:

- No _____
- No _____
- No _____

“Two Minute” Talks

Chapter 12

1. (12:1-7) Ephraim wasn't happy with Gilead's victory. Should we be happy when a Christian church of another denomination or even our own has great “success” preaching the Word to a great number of people while we at times struggle?

Chapter 13

2. (12:8-13:2) You are getting used to the formula of verses 1-2. But something is missing. Try to figure out what's missing in 1 minute. (Refer to 3:9, 15; 6:6-7; 10:10 for help)
 - Now answer how this is a sad thing *and* how it is a wonderfully comforting thing at the same time. (2 minutes)
3. (13:3-25) Manoah struggles to know his visitor whose name is beyond understanding. How well can we *know* God? (And I know I'm breaking an educational rule by asking two questions here!) How does your answer affect your everyday life?

Chapter 14

4. (14:1-4) Your son or daughter comes to you and says, "*I want to marry _____ (an unbeliever!)*" What would you say? (Saying, "*Well, then, good luck paying for the reception!*" is not an acceptable answer! ☺)
5. (14:5-20) Verse 19 seems like such a small victory for God. But God uses small victories, doesn't he? Let's say you lost a loved one. Your great victory is still "not yet" on this side of eternity when you'll see him/her again. What "little victories" does God grant us in this life to point to the fact that God's care still hovers near?

Conclusion and "Homework"

Samson is the only nativity story in the book of Judges. Why? It may be because the LORD didn't merely raise up a deliverer who was already available, rather he grew one up from scratch! Lest we think the LORD's saving is always an ad hoc, Band-Aid affair, instead of his plan. This is exactly what staggers us about Jesus, the Greater-than-Samson, who ransomed us at such cost: "*He was chosen before the creation of the world, but was revealed in these last times for your sake.*" It boggles the mind that something "before the creation of the world" could be for my sake. Praise God from whom all blessings flow!

- If God wills it, we will attempt to cover Judges 14-15 and the conclusion next time (I'll summarize the content of Judges 17-21 so feel free to read those sad chapters before next week). God's blessings on your week!