

Heart's Pursuit  
Num.15:37-41  
11-27-2016

To die for the sake of a piece of fire wood, what a sad affair. (Num.15:32-36) What can we learn from such a story today? Is it wrong to gather firewood? Hardly. The problem this man faced was that he willfully chose to do something that God had said not to. The command was to honor the Sabbath and keep it Holy. (Ex.20:8-11)

The man in this historical event recorded for us in Numbers chose to gather wood (work) on the Sabbath. It was, as it seems, a defiant act of disobedience. I suspect he was not gathering a few sticks to cook his meal or warm his tent. I think he was gathering for the sake of financial gain but maybe not. What is work?

This lesson is not about working on Sunday. This lesson is about what a person chooses to pursue. In Numbers 15:32-36 we find the event of the man who died by stoning because he labored on the Sabbath. Look and see what this event prompts God to do. (Num.15:37-41) God instituted the use of a tool for remembrance. A blue cord or ribbon on the edge of their garments.

Some translations say tassel others say to make a fringe on the borders of their garments and

put on or in the border a blue cord. (verse 38) Why? So that when they look at it they will remember all the commandments of Jehovah (God). (Verse 39)

God was not interested in making a design statement. He was interested in making a symbol to provoke the person to remember and obey. Truth is it is really about obedience that God is interested in. *Num.15:40 that ye may remember and do all my commandments, and be holy unto your God. Why? Because Jehovah is Lord God Almighty.*

God, who made us, understood the need for reminders. What He really wants is for humanity to live righteously before him. His laws and rules and precepts are for our benefit, not His. They make life better for us when properly lived.

People get into trouble quickest when they forget what God has said and follow their own notions. (see Num.15:39) We see this wording in several other places. (Jg.17:6; 21:25) The warning is simple enough: God sets the standard to which a person must align theirs to and not the folly of their own ideas. In all matters it is best to hold God's opinion as right and all others as suspect. (Pr.3:5; 14:12; Ecc.11:9)

What is your standard of remembrance? I suspect you know what mine is.

**"Jesus is"**