

FRINGES ON THEIR GARMENTS

NUMBERS 15:37-41

Text:

Introduction:

The book of Numbers is an amazing story of the deliverance of the children of Israel. It also shows us God's leading hand as well as His hand of judgment.

The story can be broken down into (4) sections. Chapters 1-10 deal with the preparation for the journey. Chapters 10-14 deal with the first approach to the promise land. The third and fourth sections deal with the wandering in the wilderness for 40 years and the second approach to the promise land.

In order for us to see the reason for our text this morning we need to look at what has taken place in chapters 10-14. As the children of Israel approached the promise land, Moses sent leaders to spy out the land and its people. But the spies returned with a discouraging report. Although Joshua and Caleb disagreed, the Israelites had already made up their minds and began to complain. As punishment for their lack of faith, God condemned them to wander in the wilderness for 40 years.

Even in the midst of this punishment, the people continued to rebel and thus God continued to punish them. Their hearts remained hard and rebellious. Hard hearts towards God may bring similar problems to us.

That brings us to our text. God is now giving Moses instructions to give to the children of Israel that they are to carry out once they enter into the Promise Land. These instructions dealt with the offerings, the breaking of the Sabbath, and their clothing. God instructs the children of Israel to make fringes in the borders of their garments, and that they put upon the fringe of the borders a ribbon of blue.

I want to take a closer look this morning at these fringes; their meaning, their importance, and why you and I should follow their example. Notice:

1. THEY WERE TO BE LOOKED AT. (vs.39)

Numbers 15:39

³⁹ And it shall be unto you for a fringe, that ye may look upon it, and remember all the commandments of the LORD, and do them; and that ye seek not after your own heart and your own eyes, after which ye use to go a whoring:

A. Looking at these fringes took their eyes off of what they were not to look at.

1. Looking at the wrong things can lead to complaining.

Notice their complaints:

- a. About their misfortunes (11:1)
- b. About lack of meat (11:4)
- c. About being stuck in the wilderness, facing giants of the promise land, and wishing to return to Egypt. (14:1-4)
- d. About Moses and Aaron (16:3)
- e. About lack of water. (20:2,3)
- f. That God and Moses brought them into the wilderness. (21:5)

B. We too must keep our eyes on the right things.

1. We must keep in mind the difference in looking at and looking to.

Hebrews 12:2

²Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of *our* faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.

a. We can't be looking at and unto at the same time.

C. Looking at the fringes also kept their heart on the right things.

1. The blue represents Heaven.

a. Our minds are to be on Heavenly things.

Isaiah 26:3

³Thou wilt keep *him* in perfect peace, *whose mind is stayed on thee*: because he trusteth in thee.

Philippians 4:8

⁸Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things *are* honest, whatsoever things *are* just, whatsoever things *are* pure, whatsoever things *are* lovely, whatsoever things *are* of good report; if *there be* any virtue, and if *there be* any praise, think on these things.

2. THEY WERE TO REMEMBER GOD'S WORDS BY IT. (VS. 39)

And it shall be unto you for a fringe, that ye may look upon it, and remember all the commandments of the LORD,...

A. How is this brought about?

Psalms 119:11

¹¹ Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee.

**3. THEY WERE TO NOT ONLY REMEMBER
GOD'S WORDS, BUT THEY WERE TO
PRACTICE GOD'S WORD. (VS. 39)**

Numbers 15:39

³⁹ And it shall be unto you for a fringe, that ye may look upon it, and remember all the commandments of the LORD, and do them; and that ye seek not after your own heart and your own eyes, after which ye use to go a whoring:

A. It is never good enough to just know the Word of God; It must be practiced.

Luke 6:46

⁴⁶ And why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say?

2 Thessalonians 3:4

⁴ And we have confidence in the Lord touching you, that ye both do and will do the things which we command you.

Philippians 4:9

⁹ Those things, which ye have both learned, and received, and heard, and seen in me, do: and the God of peace shall be with you.

James 1:23-24

²³ For if any be a hearer of the word, and not a doer, he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a glass: ²⁴ For he

beholdeth himself, and goeth his way, and straightway forgetteth what manner of man he was.

4. THEY WERE TO CARRY THIS OUT THROUGH THEIR GENERATIONS.

A. Therefore it is good that we set up fringes in our heart.

1. To remember God and His commandments.
2. To keep our eyes on the right things.
3. To keep our heart set upon Heavenly things.

Hebrews 10:32

³² But call to remembrance the former days, in which, after ye were illuminated, ye endured a great fight of afflictions;

Close:

What are you looking at today? What is it that your heart is set upon? Are you remembering the commandments of the Lord, and lastly are you doing them, if not set up a fringe in your heart, and look at that fringe.