

Bible Devotions: Lock Stock & Barrel
Devotional Reading for Outdoorsmen (Old Testament)

Numbers 15:38-40

Stand Up and Wear Your Tassels

Speak to the children of Israel: Tell them to make tassels on the corners of their garments throughout their generations, and to put a blue thread in the tassels of the corners. And you shall have the tassel, that you may look upon it and remember all the commandments of the Lord and do them, and that you may not follow the harlotry to which your own heart and your own eyes are inclined, and that you may remember and do all My commandments, and be holy for your God.

It's autumn in Missouri as I type these words. Just today, while driving home for lunch, I spotted a sign on the front lawn of the fire department. It was a reminder to replace the batteries in smoke detectors during the weekend when Daylight Saving Time ends.

Speaking of Missouri, turkey hunters in my state are required to place a yellow safety dot on their firearms while hunting. The law says that, "Each firearm turkey hunter shall affix a 'BE SAFE' decal on receiver of firearm to be visible when sighting down barrel. Please maintain the sticker on the gun when hunting. **POSITIVELY IDENTIFY YOUR TARGET!**" The decals are included with turkey hunting permits.

These things are like the old adage of tying a string around your finger so you'll remember to do something later. Come to think of it, that's very similar to what God told the children of Israel to do. They were to make and attach tassels to the corners of their garments, then weave a blue thread, or cord, into each tassel. The decorative tassels were meant to be a conspicuous reminder for them to obey *all the commandments of the Lord*, and to remind them to *be holy for your God*.

Everyone saw the reminder. You couldn't walk down the street without others catching a glimpse of tassels dangling from your tunic. And everyone knew what it meant: Obey God and be holy.

There are many today who oppose any kind of reminder that God is holy and His commandments are to be observed. We have rules against placing religious emblems in public places: crosses on street corners, Nativity scenes in town squares, The Ten Commandments in court houses, even Christian symbols in our own work spaces. Although we lament that it's difficult or illegal to do these things, the real issue is that the reminders need to be carried by men, not by walls and lawns.

I think it's time for Christian men to stand up and wear our tassels. I suppose many of us already do that to some extent by wearing Christian-themed jewelry or clothing. But I'm talking about real tassels tied to our shirt tails and belt loops!

Now wouldn't that be a sight? Thousands and thousands of Christian men and boys walking around with blue-corded tassels hanging on their clothes. People couldn't help but notice.

Just imagine how you could respond to them: "What? This tassel? It's just my reminder that God wants me to obey His commandments and to be holy. Jesus makes it possible for me to do this. Let me tell you about Him."

We could do that, couldn't we? Yes. And in public, of all places.

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Bible Devotions: Hook Line & Sinker (study guide)

Numbers 15:38-40
Stand Up and Wear Your Tassels

HOOK

1. What item reminds you most to be safe in the outdoors? Explain, if needed.

2. Where are smoke detectors located in your home? If none, where will you install them soon?!

3. Make a list of outdoor safety concerns and explain how you manage each one.

LINE

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List some Christian-themed jewelry or clothing that you normally wear. Explain how the items have helped you talk to others about God. If not helpful, how will you change that?

Describe three things which you routinely do each day that strengthen your relationship with Jesus. Or, describe what you will start doing each day that will strengthen your relationship.

SINKER

Take a few minutes to write your thoughts on this devotional. Reflect on your own experiences. Key words: reminder be holy commandments of the Lord

