

# Numbers 8:26

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

But shall minister with their brethren in the tabernacle of the congregation, to keep the charge, and shall do no service.

Thus shalt thou do unto the Levites touching their charge.

## Analysis

**But shall minister with their brethren in the tabernacle... to keep the charge**—Retired Levites continued advisory ministry (שָׁרָת sharat, to serve/attend) and oversight (שָׁמַר mishmar shamar mishmeret, guard responsibility) without performing heavy labor. The phrase **with their brethren** (אֶת-אֲחֵיכֶם et-echayv) emphasizes intergenerational partnership—young strength complementing aged wisdom.

**Shall do no service** (עֲבוֹדָה לֹא יַעֲבֹד avodah lo ya'avod) specifically refers to physical labor prohibited in verse 25, not all ministry. This balance between rest and continued contribution models healthy transitions from active to emeritus roles. Paul's mentorship of Timothy (2 Timothy 2:2) reflects this multigenerational pattern, where experienced leaders equip successors while gradually reducing direct responsibilities.

## Historical Context

The specific duties retired Levites could perform included mentoring younger Levites, supervising tabernacle security, teaching proper handling of sacred objects, and maintaining institutional memory of worship practices. This preserved continuity across generations while respecting physical limitations.

## Related Passages

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**John 3:16** — God's love and salvation

**Romans 10:9** — Confession and belief for salvation

## Study Questions

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1. What advisory or mentoring roles should churches create for retired ministers and leaders?
2. How can 'keeping the charge' (oversight without heavy labor) utilize seasoned wisdom while allowing rest?
3. What intergenerational ministry partnerships in your church could benefit from pairing young energy with experienced wisdom?

## Interlinear Text

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וְשָׁרֵת אֶת אֶחָד מִזֶּבֶחַ בְּאֹהֶל מוֹעֵד  
But shall minister with their brethren in the tabernacle of the congregation  
H8334 H854 H251 H168 H4150

לְשֵׁם רְכָמָתָם: לְשֵׁם רְכָמָתָם: לְשֵׁם רְכָמָתָם:  
to keep the charge no service and shall do  
H8104 H4931 H5656 H3808 H5647 H3602

תַּעֲשֵׂה הַלְוִיִּם בְּמִשְׁמָרָתָם:  
Thus shalt thou do unto the Levites the charge  
H6213 H3881 H4931

## Additional Cross-References

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**Numbers 1:53** (Temple): But the Levites shall pitch round about the tabernacle of testimony, that there be no wrath upon the congregation of the children of Israel: and the Levites shall keep the charge of the tabernacle of testimony.

