

# The Potter's Christian Life Center

## SERMON NOTES

with Pastor *Maxine Ramsey*



## Understanding The Addiction Process

### Numbers 11:20

Sunday, March 6, 2016

Jonathan Edwards says sin turns the heart into a fire. Just as there has never been a fire that said, "Enough fuel, I'm fine now," so there has never been a sinful heart that said, "I have had enough success. I've had enough love. I've had enough approval. I've had enough comfort." Oh, no. The more fuel you put into the fire, the hotter it burns, and the hotter it burns, the more it needs, the more oxygen it is sucking and the more fuel it requires.

### THE HEART OF THE PROBLEM

And this is the heart of the fire. Next time you are crabby, or grumpy, or irritable, or scared to death, or in the pits, ask yourself: What am I telling myself would make me happy if only I had it? There is an if only at the bottom of this. Whatever is your if only, that becomes your slave master. It destroys your will.

In the beginning when you first tell a lie you still have an appetite for the truth, but it won't take long. Lies call for other lies. Envy calls for more envy. Racism calls for more racist thoughts. Jealousy calls for more jealous thoughts. Bitterness calls for more bitter thoughts.

### HOW TO BREAK THE ADDICTION CYCLE

- Admit that there is a problem. Someone has to get our attention and help us confront the truth that we are addicted, and therefore, powerless.

#### **Numbers 11:20**

**For you have rejected the Lord, who is here among you, and you have whined to him, saying, "Why did we ever leave Egypt?"**

- Realize the we have lost our appetite for God.

Israel rejected the manna, which was to reject God's provision for them. When His provision is rejected, it is the same as rejecting Him.

Jesus, in response to the Jews who were ready to stone Him, said in **John 6:51** - **"I am the living bread which came down from heaven: if any man eat of this bread, he shall live for ever: and the bread that I will give is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world."**

The fact is that because our addictions start with tasting (as was the case with the children of Israel), deliverance begins the same way.

**Psalm 34:8,9** urges us, "**<sup>8</sup>Taste and see that the Lord is good. Oh, the joys of those who take refuge in him! <sup>9</sup>Fear the Lord, you his godly people, for those who fear him will have all they need.**"

The key is to engage with God until you are "blown away" with His presence and His goodness and mercy. This is otherwise called worship. You need to sense God's greatness and to be moved by it emotionally, mentally, and behaviorally. We must be moved by who God is and what he has done for us. This needs to be the normal routine of our lives.

## **CONCLUSION**

Instead of longing for things that will enslave, saying "If only I had some 'nice' thing from my past life of bondage, we need a new fire that says, "If only I saw the Lord. If only he was close to my heart. If only I could feel him to be as great as I know him to be. If only I could taste his grace as sweet as I know it to be."