

The Potter's Christian Life Center

SERMON NOTES

with Pastor Greg Formey



Understanding The Addiction Of Sin

Numbers 11:4-6, 18b-20

Sunday, February 21, 2016

⁴Then the foreign rabble who were traveling with the Israelites began to crave the good things of Egypt. And the people of Israel also began to complain. "Oh, for some meat!" they exclaimed. ⁵"We remember the fish we used to eat for free in Egypt. And we had all the cucumbers, melons, leeks, onions, and garlic we wanted. ⁶But now our appetites are gone. All we ever see is this manna!"

^{18b}the Lord heard you when you cried, "Oh, for some meat! We were better off in Egypt!" Now the Lord will give you meat, and you will have to eat it. ¹⁹And it won't be for just a day or two, or for five or ten or even twenty. ²⁰You will eat it for a whole month until you gag and are sick of it. For you have rejected the Lord, who is here among you, and you have whined to him, saying, "Why did we ever leave Egypt?" ' "

What is there about the human heart and the human condition that we can be fully aware of what we should do and the consequences for not doing it, but we do it anyway? sin shows up as a shortcut to success, comfort without necessary effort, and avoidance of accountability. These are very addictive desires that plunge a person into bondage.

OUR PROBLEM OF ADDICTION

The problem is that we are slaves to sin. In addition to its addictive nature, it is also deceptive. In the text, we see that the children of Israel longed to return to Egypt mainly because of good food. They were reminiscing that life was just wonderful there. They were caught up in memories of the "good ole days."

Slaves to sin are those who are spiritually powerless to do what they have determined to be best for them. Listen to Paul's lament about the power of sin and its addictive nature:

Romans 7:21-23

²¹I have discovered this principle of life-that when I want to do what is right, I inevitably do what is wrong. ²²I love God's law with all my heart. ²³But there is another power within me that is at war with my mind. This power makes me a slave to the sin that is still within me.

This is the very definition of addiction.

Not all addiction is sin, but all sin is addiction.

If you think that you can consistently do what is right from the heart, you haven't tried very hard.

HOW THE ADDICTION GETS A Foothold

It conquers our emotions

⁴Then the foreign rabble who were traveling with the Israelites began to crave the good things of Egypt. And the people of Israel also began to complain. "Oh, for some meat!" they exclaimed.

We began to compare something not so good in our new times with something very good in our old times. We then murmur and complain.

It compromises our thinking

⁵"We remember the fish we used to eat for free in Egypt. And we had all the cucumbers, melons, leeks, onions, and garlic we wanted.

They reasoned that if they went back, they would have "all-you-can-eat" buffets for free. Certainly it was free; they were slaves!

It drains our will

⁶But now our appetites are gone. All we ever see is this manna!"

Some experts in the Hebrew say "our appetites are gone" can also read, "our strength is dried up."

THINGS TO NOTE

With things that are not good for you, the more you have of it, the more you dislike it. As we proceed, we will understand more about how the sin addiction proceeds. What we need is the power to escape the addiction cycle.