

Bags of Addiction

Part 3

1 Sam 17:31-51

Today we're talking about *Bags of Addiction*.

Now some people here go, "Oh, this is great. He's not talkin' to me.

And he knows somebody else in the room he's talkin' to."

We always tend to kind of look and say, "Ya know, I don't have any addictions."

Well we're going to look at all kinds and sorts and types of baggage that tend to wrap themselves around us and hold us in bondage.

Here's the vision of where we're going.

We do not want anything to supersede the Lordship of Jesus Christ.

If Jesus is not ruling, governing, controlling, leading, guiding, and directing every facet of your life, then there's room for you and I to grow.

There's room for us to advance in declaring His Lordship and allowing that to really take place.

I don't think anybody really plans on becoming addicted

But it started with one.

It's the enemy's trick from the very beginning. We should wake up to it.

What does the enemy say to Adam and Eve? "Take one bite."

And that's the entire ploy of the enemy. He'll get you started on one and it'll lead you to two, leads you to 10, that leads you to 20.

And so we are faced with all kinds of sorts of addictions. Whether that's gambling, whether that's pornography, whether that's lust.

Maybe that's ... you say, "Well, I don't have any of those. I'm good."

Well what about just lying when we don't need to lie?

What about anger and we just ... it's become a part of who we are. And it's become a part of how we live.

If you're taking notes today, here's the *Big Thing* we want to ask. **What has mastered you?**

2 Peter 2:19 - "*For people are slaves to whatever has mastered them.*"

What are you a slave to? What has become bigger than you?

And if you're honest enough to say, "Yes, there is something." I have some incredible news for you.

Today is your day of salvation, today is your day of deliverance, today is your day of victory, today is your day of freedom.

Because he who The Son has set free, is free indeed.

And some of you have been facing some battles of life. You've been facing some challenges and addictions and strongholds.

And today ... you're going to take this thing off. You say, "I'll never fight it again?"

I'm not saying it won't ever raise its head again.

I'm saying today, if you are truly sold out to Jesus Christ, you can beat this thing!

You can overcome this thing! You can find victory in this thing! And you can make a difference!

So what has mastered you? What is that thing?

You say, "Oh, you didn't mention ... I'm good ... you didn't mention mine!"

Oh, I'm sorry ... Why don't we do this? Instead of me trying to identify them, why don't you say, "Holy Spirit, is there anything that has taken control in my life and has circumvented Your Lordship and it rules and governs and controls me?"

What if you said, "Holy Spirit, search me. Know my ways, my thoughts, and God if there is anything that I have allowed to supersede the Lordship of Jesus Christ, make that clearly shown to me."

It doesn't have to be something evil. It can be something that has taken over your life and dominated you.

Proverbs 25:28 - "*Like the city whose walls are broken through, is the person who lacks self control.*"

If you go back and you're thinking of the era when this was written, when the city wall was broken, when there was a demolition that had happened there.

The city is now vulnerable to an attack.

And so when you have any kind of addiction, something else that is declaring the Lordship over you, it has become an entrance for the enemy.

And here's what you'll find. He gets his foothold in one and he'll try and lead you into another area.

He gets his stronghold and he's going to try and use that as an avenue to infiltrate your life and to rule and control and to dominate you.

How do you know if something is trying to be its master over you?

Number one ... the person becomes obsessed.

Constantly thinking about the object, activity or substance. There are some symptoms.

Secondly, they engage in the behavior even though it is causing harm.

Thirdly, the person will compulsively engage in the activity and do the activity over and over even if they don't want to ... they find themselves doing it.

Fourthly, upon cessation of the activity, to stop it, they go through withdrawal symptoms, often occurred, and can include irritability, restlessness, depression. "I haven't had any caffeine and my heart is about to rip open!" No one said ever

Fifth, What about the person who does not appear to have control as to when, how long, or how much ... and it continues and cycles out of control?

They go to buy a belt and maybe you have a habit spending.

You went to buy a belt and you come home with four belts, and three pairs of shoes, and a new dress.

Sixth ... he or she often denies the problem. "I don't have a problem. I'm good. I'm good. I'm good."

Men are that way. When we judge ourselves, we are so conned.

We're just like, "Nope ... we is good! I got it all together!"

We don't so easily see our flaws and our mistakes. They deny the problem.

They hide the behavior from family and close friends.

Depression is another symptom. Low self esteem.

Feeling anxious as if you don't have control ... you don't have control in that area so you try and control other areas because you're trying to get control.

And maybe you're sitting here and you say, "I need help."

Here's what Paul said when he was writing to the Corinthian Church and there was some sexual sin going on there.

1 Cor 6:12 - "You say I have the right to do anything but not everything is beneficial." You say I have the right to do anything, but Paul said, "I will not be mastered by anything."

What I really want to hit today is, is Jesus truly Lord of All? Is He Lord of All? So I'm going to give you three biblical steps that we can take to beat this thing ... to overcome whatever this habit, this addiction, this stronghold is in your life.

The first one is, if you're taking notes, is we're going to take it to God. "Well that's really brilliant!"

No, we're going to take it to God like never before.

Not, "Oh dear God ... huh ... I pray that You would help me God. Thank You. Amen."

Man, that was so heartfelt. Man, you were all in on that prayer.

I'm talking about on your face, rug-sucking, crying out for God, and saying,

"God it is You and only You that I put my faith and my trust in. I want to beat this thing and God

I am shouting out to You. God, I'm jumpin' all in!"

See, a lot of you do this, "How's the water? Is it good?"

Or here's what you do.....I want to keep one foot in Heaven because, you know, He could come back any time, and I don't want to be left behind."

And so you keep one foot in Heaven and trying to keep one foot in the world.

What does 1st John tell us? *If you love the world, the love of the Father isn't in you.*

You can't serve two masters. You can't serve two masters.

You're going to get injured. (the splits.....)

Okay? It's going to hurt.

You go all in with God. "God, I'm going with You ... wherever I go, I go with God."

Wherever I go, God goes. I don't take my coat of faith off and say, "God, when I go to school, or when I go to work." I'm all in.

I'm sold out to God.

Romans 6: 12-13 "Therefore do not let sin reign. Don't let it exercise dominion or rule over you in your mortal body so that you obey its evil desires. Do not offer any part of yourself to sin as an instrument of wickedness, but rather offer yourself to God as those who have been brought from death to life; and offer every part of yourself to him as an instrument of righteousness."

That means you're all in!

You don't say, "Well, I'm going to dangle out here and I want to do a little bit of that."

No! You're all in. You are sold out, consecrated, dedicated, 100%.

And I'm going to tell you something. Most of us as believers do not live on that level 24 hours a day, 60 minutes per hour, 60 seconds per minute.

Most of us don't live all in.

We're surfin' the channels. We think the angry thoughts. We get selfish ways. We're not all in.

And now see ... but that's part of our growth process. It's part of a journey. I'm not saying live perfect.

I'm saying pursue the Perfect One.

If I pursue Christ ... if I keep my eyes on Him ... I'm going to walk on water.

As I stay focused on Him, I'm going to become more like Him.

What you focus on is what you become. And so if you're all wrapped around the axle of some T.V. show, that's going to consume your life and your thoughts and your actions.

You're going to take on whatever that is.

Here's how I want to put it.

You need to have a *Popeye* moment. Now, I know there are some young people here, like you saw some remade movie, but I want to go back to like 1950's version. Now, remember Popeye? Brutus was the bad guy? And then this really hot chick, Olive Oyl, remember her? You know, she's like, "Blek." And she was like a stick figure cartoon. But then Popeye, massive most forearms on the planet, just before he would pop the spinach, here's what he would say: "That's all I can stand, I can't stand it no more!"

"That's all I can stand, I can't stand it no more!" That's the attitude you have to take, though. That's the attitude ... whatever this thing that's trying to be your master ... man, before you pop the spinach and pile on the strength of God, you say, "That's all I can stand, I can't stand it no more!"

Here's the approach. When some of you are looking at this thing that has master over you, you go, "I can't beat it.

It's been a part of me. I've had eating disorders. I've been a liar ... I'm always a liar ... I will be a liar."

I think ... when the armies of Israel are facing the giant and they're looking at this giant. All the fighting mighty men of Israel are saying, "We can't defeat him. Nobody can beat him."

But along comes a shepherd boy who said, "Who is this guy that defies the armies of the living God? Who is this that would spew vulgarity about my God? I will go fight him."

He said, "I don't need Saul's army. I don't need Saul's sword." He said, "I'll fight him."

Everybody looked at him and said, "You are a fool if you think this is going to take out that giant."

And it's the same lie that the devil feeds you. That if you try and throw a rock at your habit ... at your addiction ... it's not going to do anything.

But it's about you doing what you can do and letting God do what only He can do!

It's about you putting your faith in God and you say, "God, I have no idea how saying I'm going to throw this rock at the giant is going to stop this habit that I've had for years.

But God, I'm willing to put my trust and faith in You and go all in!"

2 Cor 10:4: *"The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary they have divine power to demolish strongholds."*

The word 'power' there is ... in the Greek ... *dunamis*.

It's where we get the word 'dynamite.' [Amen!] Explosive power! Miracle working power.

We're not fighting as the world and going, "I will not do ... I will not ... I won't do it ... I'm not going to do it."

I'm not talking about just going, "I'm not going to do it again."

I'm talking about saying, "God? I'm not going to do this but I'm going to release the *dunamis* power of God ... of the Most High God ... and God ..."

"Holy Spirit, fill me with Your power and presence."

And on the day of Pentecost they were all filled with the Holy Spirit.

Began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance.

And the power of God exploded.

And miracles, and signs, and wonders began to take place.

Experience a miracle in your own life by the *dunamis* power of God.

The second thing we're going to do, we're going to take it public.

Hold the train! "I was with you Preacher. I'm all in. I'm all about death.

But if you think I'm going to come up here and go, 'I'd like to just confess in front of everybody...

I'm not asking you to come up and do a public confession.

But here's what the Bible teaches us. James 5:16 - *"Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed."*

The power of prayer, here's the deal.

It's taking the lid off the sin or the habit or the addiction that holds you. It's taking the lid off.

If you eat Twinkies and you just, "Twinkie, twinkie, twinkie," and Twinkie's rule you and control you ... you've gotta go tell somebody.

And here's the thing ... when you tell somebody that's close to you ... they're going to go, "I knew that." They're not going to be shocked.

Now flip side. There might be something that you need to reveal that maybe they don't know.

And if you're on the receiving end of this? Do not let the enemy use this for you to go, "He hurt me."

It's not about you! The habit, the addiction was not, "I'm going to really get my husband! I'm going to really get my wife."

It's not about you so you have to be ready and willing to receive and to hear when someone comes to you and says, "I need to talk."

Why is this so important? Because sin abounds in darkness and secrecy.

You will literally break the legs of the habit when you expose it.

Everything within you, you and Jesus, you and Jesus ... that's all you need. You and Jesus.

You can make it, you can make it. That is so close to truth but it is still deception.

**Because we were not designed to live in this world on our own.

Otherwise we wouldn't need the body of Christ.

Otherwise, we wouldn't need the family of God.

Otherwise, Jesus wouldn't be the head and we were the arms and the hands and the feet and the toes and the ankles and the knees.

We need one another. And it's when we expose it ... you go to a man you can trust ... you go to a parent, to a father, to a mother ... you go to a good friend.

I encourage you to go men-to-men and women-to-women and I encourage you to find somebody.

I need you to jump in here with me. I need your help."

Here's what Jesus said, John 3:19-20 This is the verdict. *"Light has come into the world but people love darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil. Everyone who does evil hates the light and will not come into the light for fear that their deeds will be exposed. But whoever lives by the truth comes into the light so that it may be seen plainly that what they have done has been done in the sight of God."*

If you want to break the chains that hold you and bind you ... if you want to get victory over this, you have to expose it.

You have to come to God and say, "God, search me.

God, I don't want anything to be my master over me."

So here's what you're going to ... you're going to go to this person and you're going to ask them to do three things.

First, 'Help me with prayer.'

Will you pray for me?

Will you stand with me?

Secondly, 'Help me when I fall.'

I'm going to run the race but if I fall, I need you to come and pick me up and say,

"Are you going to stay down or are you going to get up and fight like a man?"

Get up and fight!

And thirdly, 'Help me with accountability.'

Call me any time of day. Here's my cell number. You text me. "What are you doing right now?

You're spending time with your wife? Or are you doing those other things?

What are you doing now? You're stopping off with some buddies on the way home or are you going home and spending time with your kids and playing catch in the backyard?"

We need people to speak into our lives and to call us out and to keep us in place.

And the last thing, we're going to take it down. We are going to take it down. You are going to take it down.

You are going to pick up the rock and you're going to throw it and you are going to defeat this thing.

This is not something that, "I just have to live with it the rest of my life. It's just a crutch I have to bear.

I just have to live with this. It's who I am." No!

Your habits and your addictions don't define you ... God's Word defines who you are. [Amen!]

You're going to take it down. You're going to put your faith in God.

2 Cor 12:9-10, Amplified Version, *But he said to me I've gone to the Lord three times. Remove this thorn! Remove this thorn! But he said to me, my grace, my favor and loving kindness and mercy is enough for you ... sufficient against any danger and enables you to bear the trouble manfully. For my strength says God empower ... the dunamis power again ... are made perfect, fulfilled and completed and show themselves most effectively in your weakness.*

What does that mean? We come to God and we say, "God, I can't do this on my own.

I need Your help. I need Your assistance."

Therefore, we'll all the more gladly glory in my weakness and infirmities that the strength and dunamis power of Christ, the Messiah, may rest.

Yes, may pitch a tent over and dwell upon me.

1 Cor 9:26-27 Paul said, (vs. 27) - "I strike a blow to my body and I make it my slave."

You're going to kill the giant today.

You're going to defeat that thing that holds you ... that traps you ... that tries to master you.

You have the victory today.

And we're not going to go with some little sissy kinda prayer and some little pansy kind of praying.

We're going to go for it! We're going to just say, "God, it's You or nothing.

I'm lettin' go of old habits, old ways, old things, and God I want Jesus to be Lord of every fiber of who I am."

And here's what David had to say as he stood ... and I love what the Scripture tells us ...(1 Sam 17:48) *He ran towards the giant.*

If I was there, "God? Are you sure you're with me?"

Run at the thing you fear the most, and you'll see the greatest victory come the quickest!!!!!!!

Because the giant is a deception. He was not impenetrable. But the power of God can set you free.

You do your part, and God will do His part.

Is God bigger than alcohol? Yes, He is.

Is God bigger than overeating? Yes, He is.

Is God big over anger, control, and lying? Yes, He is.

Is God bigger than caffeine? Yes, He is.

Is God bigger than the biggest thing that you're facing in your life? Yes, He is.

He is bigger than that lust, He's bigger than that porn, He's bigger than that child pornography.

Walk in the victory. Take it to God. Take it public and let's take it down.

Will you stand to your feet with me? I want you to get radical. I want you to get radical. Whatever it is that holds you, you need to get rid of it. These have to go. If overeating is your thing, you can't have Twinkie's sitting around. You can't say, "Well I just want to keep it. I just want to ... I won't eat it. I just want it nearby." Bust it. Put it down the garbage disposal. Don't give it to your kids!!! [Laughter] Go and buy like 10 pounds of broccoli and carrots. If gaming is your thing, take that game, go to your grill, light that grill up and watch that thing melt. You say, "Are you serious?" Yeah ... put the whole system on Craigslist. Some of you are like, "Man, man ... this, this." It controls you. If you can't sell it, it controls you. Do something radical. And then, here's what you need to do. You need to become a Bible-holic. You need to become a Word-aholic. You need to overdose, you need to be, "Honey, honey, I need a hit! I don't have a Bible. Check me a Scripture, baby!" [Laughter] You need to start putting just Scriptures on your Facebook instead of recipes! [Laughter] Could you go seven days and never look at your Facebook account? Some of you are like, "Ugggh." Let's get freedom.