



Week 11 | Slaves No More | July 12, 2015

Opening Up:

1. Imagine you are throwing something better than a dinner party, you are throwing a banquet! This would be a fest for 15 to 20 of your closest friends and family. Describe it. What food would you have? What would the environment be like? What drinks would you serve? (don't limit the imagination)
2. What is one food item do you crave the most?

Reference: Numbers 11:4-6, 10-20

Discuss:

1. Both in Romans 7:21 and in the passage for this week, we find it to be a law that we can not seem to do every good thing that we want to do. Sinful "cravings" seem to be a power in our lives not just an action we commit or omit. In your experience, how is sin a power?
2. You are a spiritual slave if you are powerless to do what is best for you. It seems that part of sin's power (the craving) is the ability to distort our capacity to reason. How have you witnessed the cravings of sin distorting your ability to reason?
3. Look at the following Sin Cycle discovered in our text and ask, how have you witnessed this in your life or the lives of others?
 1. Craving
 2. Loss of the ability to reason
 3. Loss of the ability to desire the good
 4. Loathing of the condition
 5. Craving the thing you loath
4. Ephesians 4:17-19 illustrates that all sin creates a tolerance effect. What are the consequences of being desensitized to sin?
5. Most of our sin is triggered by a hoping or coping trigger. We are tempted to hope we can raise above our problems through coping by the way of certain sin habits or idol worship. What are the consequences of hoping in something other than God? How does hoping in God make a difference?
 1. Sin slavery starts with a trigger.
 2. The trigger leads you to an agent.
 3. The agent promises you transcendence.
 4. You put your hope in the agent.
6. We can turn a good thing into an ultimate thing and therefore misplace our hope. For example, what happens if we put our hope in our father as an ultimate hope? Loving dad is a good thing, but he can not be Lord of your life. Why is that true? Remember that Israel's primary issue was a misplaced Lordship, see Numbers 11:20.
7. The reason you need an outside voice to show you your misplaced hope is because your cravings effect your reasoning. Let's reason together now. What are some things that could help someone caught in a cycle of sin slavery? (Remember the powerless are the most powerful.)

8. Why doesn't reminding people of what is right and wrong and telling them how much God loves them not go deep enough? Why is important to identify the idol someone is serving?
9. How does the recognize, rebuke, replace tool help you? Practice recognize, rebuke, and replace.
 1. Recognize the lie or idol
 2. Rebuke the like or idol
 3. Replace with the gospel
 1. Prayer Recognition: Lord, I like having you, but there's this other thing I believe I must have. I am seeking this other thing to make me feel happy or meaningful. When I can't have it, I despair. I do not believe that you are enough. I think I need this other thing too. In fact, I am really afraid that you will take it from me. This other thing has been the real goal of my life. Lord, I need your help. The grip of this other thing is too powerful for me.
 2. Prayer of Rebuke: Lord, I see how repulsive this thing is. Lord, the thing itself is not evil— it is what my heart has done to it, elevating it, that makes it evil. I refuse to be controlled by it any longer. It wreaks havoc in my life. You justify me, not this. You are my master, not this. I will not be controlled by this. This is not my life— I don't have to have it. Jesus is my life— I only have to have him.
 3. Prayer of Replacement: Lord, I have been trying to earn my own salvation and weave my own righteousness. But you are my salvation and righteousness. I am accepted in your Son! All my problems come because I am forgetting how loved, honored, beautiful, secure, rich, respected, embraced, and free in Jesus I am. All other ways of finding honor, respect, purpose, and so on are vain. Let me be so ravished with your love for me that no other love can control me.
10. Pray.