**Truth that Hurts and Heals**

*Sermon series on addiction*

**John 8:31**

This is going to be a message about grace.

We are all prone to be addicts..

**The fact is that our sinful nature, the default position, is toward addiction.**

Grace does not enter closed doors.

There is many different “matches” (if I can use that illustration) that inflame addictions.

That was introduction! Get ready let’s roll....

***John 8:31 “So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed him, ‘If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.’ They answered him, ‘We are offspring of Abraham and have never been enslaved to anyone. How is it that you say, “You will become free”?’
Jesus answered them, ‘Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who practices sin is a slave to sin. The slave does not remain in the house forever; the son remains forever. So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.’”***

What I’d like to do is to give you three truths that you need for freedom. And then what we’re going to do is give you some steps and point the way, and you, with an open heart, must go the rest of the way with Jesus.

**The first thing I think that we need to know is we need to know ourselves**.

Please notice in our text..

Their self-righteousness closed them off to the possibility of experiencing God’s grace. **“We’ve never been slaves to anyone. We’re the righteous ones. We go to the Temple. We pray. We keep the Law. What do we need to be set free from?”**

Many of you have taken a stress test. I’ve been told they put you on a treadmill. And the doctor says, ***“At first, you’re going to be able to keep up with the treadmill, but eventually you will lose, and the treadmill will win.”***

**Do you know what an addiction means? Do you know what the root word is? It’s *to surrender to the gods*.**

**Second, what we need to do is to know some truth about Satan.**

**Verse 44, “You are of your father, the devil.”**

**You say, “Did Jesus really say that?”**

But these people are bragging that Abraham is their father. And Jesus says, ***“You’re of your father, the devil, and your will is to do your father’s desires. He was a murderer from the beginning (The devil is never interested in life – always death) and has nothing to do with the truth because there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks out of his own character, for he is a liar and the father of lies.”***

**“The only time you can really believe the devil is if he told you that he was lying.”**

**So, we need to know something about ourselves and something about Satan, and of course, something about God.**

He is gracious and merciful

**Now what I’d like to do is to give you what I consider maybe three steps.**

**First** of all *you can’t get free*. You can’t get free. You must be set free.

**“You shall know the truth, and the truth shall set you free. And if the Son makes you free, you are free indeed.”**

I love Psalm 40 where David says in his experience

**“I waited patiently for the Lord. He inclined to me and heard my cry. He drew me up from the pit of destruction (Don’t you love this phraseology?), out of a miry bog, and set my feet on a rock, making my steps secure. He put a new song in my mouth. (Do you mean that after you’ve been in the pit you can still sing? Yup!) Many will see and fear and put their trust in the Lord.”**

**Second**, your struggle *magnifies God’s grace*.

A Man struggling with pornography wrote...

***“I remember many times sitting in front of my computer, and the question was to click or not to click. I felt the Holy Spirit tapping me on the shoulder. I knew better. I knew that the peace of God’s presence is better than this rush that I would receive. God was nevertheless even here, present with me, convicting me, yes, but…”***

He said, ***“The way of escape was the presence of the living God. He became my rescue.”***

And he said, ***“I had to come to the point where the peace of God and my fellowship with God meant more to me than the pleasure that I would receive – the guilty pleasure – and that God ultimately, and my fellowship with Him would mean more.”***

**And now here’s the most important thing you may hear from me in this message. When you sin, and when you are loaded with guilt, and when you are in a lifestyle that just increases your guilt, what do you do? Do you know what the big mistake is that people make? They run away from Jesus. They say, “Well, I can’t handle the God thing right now. Someday when I’m out of this and someday when I’m doing better, then I can come to God. I’ll clean myself up and present myself to Him. Then He’s better and I’m better.” And they think He’ll say, “Oh wow! Now that you’ve cleaned yourself up, you are welcome.”**

Remember what I said at the beginning? **Grace enters open doors – not closed hearts.**

**Jesus comes to where we are and says**, “***Why don’t you find a secret place somewhere? Find time. Take out an hour of your life and just open the suitcase. We’ll look at it together. We’ll bring healing. We’ll bring hope, and I’ll set you along the right path. There will be many struggles, but I’ll walk with you on your journey.”***