

Delivered from the Bondage of Addictive Sins - Part 1

1 Samuel 7

Introduction:

1. It is a terrible feeling to live in bondage. Do you ever feel like you're handcuffed to some particular sin, addiction, or situation and there is no key to get yourself loose?
2. There is hope, and that hope is found in Jesus Christ. No matter what situation you may find yourself in, Christ can set you free. John 8:36
3. Here in our text, the nation of Israel (God's people) found themselves in constant bondage to their enemy, the Philistines. Their bondage had caused them to lament after the Lord (vs. 2). "Lament" means "to utter cries of sorrow; to bemoan; to mourn."
 - Their lives were not characterized by joy, peace, and contentment. They felt overcome, frustrated, and defeated.
 - The source of their bondage really wasn't the Philistines. It was their own habitual sin of following false gods and heathen idolatry.
4. I believe that there are many of us today (who know Christ as our Savior) who can associate with these feelings of despair and bondage. We are frustrated in our Christian walk because we are battling with some addictive sins of our own.
5. Do you remember the boy, Samuel, who helped Eli, the high priest, in the tabernacle? He has now grown into a man. But not just a man—a man of God!
6. Samuel stood up and proclaimed to Israel what they needed to do in order to gain deliverance from those pesky Philistines (vs. 3). They are "keys" to unlocking the handcuffs of addictive sins and overcoming the "Philistines" in our lives. Every believer can be set free from the bondage of addictive sins.
7. How can we be delivered from bondage?

First, by possessing true, heart-felt repentance

1. The very first key that Samuel gives Israel is to "*return unto the Lord with all your hearts.*"
 - The word "*return*" is from the same root word that the word "repent" comes from.
2. In the Bible, repentance carries the idea of changing your thinking about someone or something. It is not simply being sorry that you got caught, or being sorry for the consequences that you may be suffering because of your sin.
3. Repentance is a complete change of mind and heart about sin. It is agreeing with what **God** says about it, and then admitting that **we** are wrong and **God** is right.
 - This is true in regards to salvation, but it is also true in regards to our Christian walk after we have trusted Christ.
4. Notice what Israel exclaims in verse 6: "*We have sinned against the Lord.*"
 - Deliverance (salvation) from a habitual sin will never come until we first admit that we are wrong and we truly need to change. 2 Corinthians 7:9-10

5. Do you know what keeps us from repenting of sin in our lives? The same thing that caused Satan to fall—pride. “It's not that big a deal. Everybody does it. That's just the way I am. I don't have a problem. It's not that bad.”
6. Pride keeps us involved in addictive sins and Philistine bondage, but a humble, repentant attitude will help to loose us. 2 Timothy 2:25-26

Second, by dealing decisively with your sin

1. Israel had been involved in the pagan worshipping of false gods. Verse 4 lists two of these pagan deities, Baalim and Ashtaroth. They represented male and female deities. Their worship was celebrated with ceremonies of abominable filth and wickedness.
2. Israel knew better. They had God's Word which contained God's commands and God's warnings about this. So Samuel told them straight up, “You need to repent of your sin and then put it away.” This meant that Israel must deal swiftly and decisively with it.
3. Paul taught the church the same principle. He commanded us to “*put off*” the deeds of the old man (who we were before Christ). Get them out of your life! Colossians 3:8-9
4. When we truly repent of our sin, there should be an immediate desire to put it away, to eliminate it, to get it out of our lives. Do you remember the passage we read earlier from 2 Corinthians 7:9-10? Notice what their repentance produced? vs. 11
5. Many times in the Old Testament, when Israel would repent of their pagan worship, they would take those false god's idols and grind them to powder. In Acts 19:18-19, those new believers took the sinful items that had kept them in bondage and burned them.
6. This is what true repentance produces, a vehement desire to put away that sin. In order to overcome addictive sins, we must deal with them decisively by getting rid of the potential temptations. We may need to get radical. Romans 13:14
7. Israel couldn't just take their idols and put them in a drawer or closet and expect victory over them. When Samuel said to “put them way” he meant to destroy them and get rid of them. This is exactly what it takes for you and me to overcome addictive sins.

In Conclusion:

1. Israel had a problem, and the real problem wasn't the Philistines. The Philistines were the **fruit** of the problem, but the **root** of the problem was Israel's own habitual sin of idolatry.
2. The good news is that we can experience victory. 1 Corinthians 15:57
3. The man of God, Samuel, gave them God's Word. Do you want victory? Samuel said that they needed to first admit they had a problem and repent of it. “God is right; we are wrong, and we must change.”

4. Second, they had to deal swiftly and decisively with their sin. Victory would not come until they decided to get radical and put that sin away. Eliminate the potential temptations.
5. But there were two more incredibly important principles that Samuel shared with Israel that would help them to overcome their addictive sin. We will examine both of these principles next week.