



Jesus Loves Addicts - Sunday, October 14th

SCRIPTURE:

Matthew 5:3 (The Message)

"You're blessed when you're at the end of your rope..."

Luke 4:16-21

He went to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, and on the Sabbath day he went into the synagogue, as was his custom. He stood up to read, and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was handed to him. Unrolling it, he found the place where it is written:

"The Spirit of the Lord is on me,

because he has anointed me

to proclaim good news to the poor.

He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners

and recovery of sight for the blind,

to set the oppressed free,

to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."

Then he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant and sat down. The eyes of everyone in the synagogue were fastened on him. He began by saying to them, "Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing."

John 4:13-14, 17-18

Jesus answered, "Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst." "I have no husband," she replied. Jesus said to her, "You are right when you say you have no husband. The fact is, you have had five husbands, and the man you now have is not your husband.

John 8:34-36

Jesus replied, "Very truly I tell you, everyone who sins is a slave to sin. ³⁵ Now a slave has no permanent place in the family, but a son belongs to it forever. ³⁶ So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.

Sermon Quotes:

"When public health officials tell you you're living in the darkest drug era in American history, pay attention. Because opioid dependence in America doesn't discriminate; it just infects. "Transcending geography, class and religion, it's ravaging a generation, claiming lives by way of both addiction and death." – Ashley Abramson

“My deepest awareness of myself is that I am deeply loved by Jesus Christ and I have done nothing to earn it or deserve it.” – Brennan Manning

“Define yourself radically as one beloved by God. This is the true self. Every other identity is illusion.” – Brennan Manning

Sermon Points:

- *Friendship*
- *Frankness*
- *Freedom*
- *Your addiction does NOT define you!*

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What is the first thing that comes to your mind when you hear the word addiction?
 2. How has addiction affected your family or friends in a personal way?
 3. What affect does friendship have on people struggling with addiction?
 4. How can God use frankness to help someone struggling with addiction?
 5. What does it take for someone struggling with addiction to find freedom?
 6. Why is it important for someone struggling with addiction to know and understand that his or her addiction doesn't define him or her? Where is the best place for someone to find his or her identity?
 7. What is one thing God spoke to your heart today? What is God calling you to do in response to what you heard?
- Action Steps: Either invite someone you know who is walking or has walked through the pain and brokenness of addiction to attend worship with you over the next three weeks and/or invite him or her to your small group or tell him or her about *The Landing* - <https://covechurch.com/ministries/the-landing> - a safe place for people to experience community and connection and find help and healing for their hurts, habits and hang ups.
 - If you need help figuring out your “next steps,” including finding a counselor or a Small Group connection, then email connect@covechurch.com.