

10/22

Welcome / Prayer

Discussed habit spillover, that a habit in one area spills over into other areas of your life.

- Habitual smoker – impacts your social life greatly
- Regularly study/read God's Word, your whole world will be impacted b/c God will start steering you to minister to others

Detoured to the concept that God's word benefits the unbeliever if he'll pay attention to it. Why? Rains fall on both.

We discussed the habit loop and how to break it.

- Our level was mostly academic at this point, but will cinch down to solid stuff toward the end.

Looked at Sermon On The Mount & the habit loop

Murder – at the temptation, Jesus opens the loop

- If you're even angry, heck everyone gets angry w/ someone else!! That moves the foul line WAY too close!! I better do something about this right now!
- Work on reconciliation as a matter of priority!

Adultery

- Whoever looks on a woman to lust for her – (already an adulterer at this point)
- **whoever looks on a woman "to" what?**
- Pluck out the eye and throw it from you

Relevant examples to Jesus' instruction on adultery:

- **Ec 9:10 Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with all your might;**
  - **Is he talking about a blind man? How can a hand find its way to do anything?**
  - NLT says: Whatever you do, do well
  - The idea is **EXECUTION**. The hand = execution
- **Matthew 20:15 (NASB) 'Is it not lawful for me to do what I wish with what is my own? Or is your eye envious because I am generous?'**
  - The workers were mad. They stared w/ their physical eye but inwardly there was **INTENTION** to complain. (eye = intention)
  - What's the intention of staring at a sexually attractive person not your spouse? Does it feed your fire? What's the outcome?

We'll cover this more toward the end, but hang on to this for now:

- Whatever you struggle to break free from has a deep seated position of power.
- Simply removing that (whatever) from your life creates a massive power vacuum
- The rest of your normal life isn't powerful enough to fill the void (or you'd have licked it by now) so guess what returns to fill it again?

You guessed it – your habit

Therefore, simply removing (whatever) isn't the answer; it is what we fill that stronghold's refuge with

The New Routine is the method used to fill the stronghold refuge with something more powerful

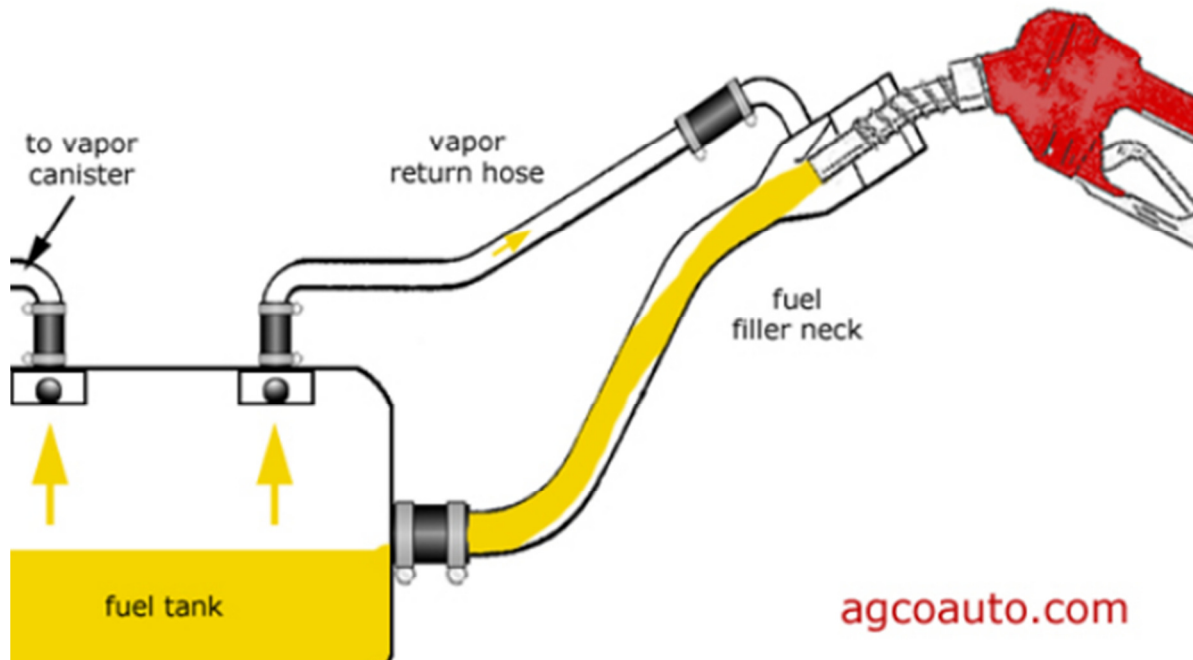
**This** concept is explained when Jesus spoke of

**Matthew 12: 43 "Now when the unclean spirit goes out of a man, it passes through waterless places seeking rest, and does not find it. <sup>44</sup> "Then it says, 'I will return to my house from which I came'; and when it comes, it finds it unoccupied, swept, and put in order. <sup>45</sup> "Then it goes and takes along with it seven other spirits more wicked than itself, and they go in and live there; and the last state of that man becomes worse than the first.**

If the house is unoccupied, that person who was delivered is in deep trouble

resuming...

So what does “pluck it out” and “cut it off” mean?



Whatever we hold, even to the most prized possessions, if they cause us to stumble, must be removed if our souls are to be saved.

**CUE** (gas tank slide) – sexually attractive situation presents itself

- The eye, or INTENT OF THE SOUL sets its gaze on a sexually attractive (whatever, even an unholy thought dwelled on)
- That’s the window to the soul.
- That act of ‘gazing’ (you know what I mean) feeds the flesh and offends the Holy Spirit.
- It is a hose pumping in poison to the soul.
- This hose must be crimped, cut, tied, and vanquished from the soul.
- **1Pe 2:11** Beloved, I urge you as aliens and strangers to abstain from fleshly lusts which wage war against the soul.

and even

- **2Tim2:22** Now *flee* from youthful lusts and pursue righteousness, faith, love and peace, with those who call on the Lord from a pure heart
- **1 Cor 6:18** *Flee* immorality. Every *other* sin that a man commits is outside the body, but the immoral man sins against his own body.

By the way, why/how does the immoral man sin against his own body?

- disease
- balaam – weakens you, perverts the mind
- Saw this in the effects pornography has on men

Because it’s better to suffer the loss of carnal pleasures in this life than it is to enjoy all of them and then you get thrown into Hell WITH all your bad habits & corruption of soul

**Now** (seed germination)... where we left off from the detour was the Adultery with the routine interrupted and a NEW routine of mortification of the flesh / carnal desires

You mean I just have to do this once and I'm good? Is there a magic formula?

- Paul discussing the resurrection of the dead & the suffering he has to go through - 1Co 15:31 I affirm, brethren, by the boasting in you which I have in Christ Jesus our Lord, I die daily.
- 2 Corinthians 4:10-11 always carrying about in the body the dying of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our body. For we who live are constantly being delivered over to death for Jesus' sake, so that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our mortal flesh. 11 For we who live are constantly being delivered over to death for Jesus' sake, so that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our mortal flesh.
  - Jesus – except a grain of wheat fall to the earth... = illustration of life through death

