

August 27th, 2023
Wrecked: Week 3

Question: Have you ever noticed that nobody ever wakes up one day and says...

- I'm going to get DRUNK, and maybe it will cost me my job!
- I'm going to try some WEED, and hopefully I get busted so Pastor Jim can come and visit me in jail!
- I'll try to GAMBLE and hopefully I'll lose all my savings!

Nobody ever sets out to do that, and yet, people end up there all of the time...
WRECKED!

1 Corinthians 6:12 (NIV)

"I have the right to do anything," you say—but not everything is beneficial. "I have the right to do anything"—but I will not be MASTERED by anything.

The Greek word for *Mastered* is, 'exousiazo' (ex-oo-see-ad'-zo) and as expected, this word means to be controlled by, or enslaved.

You see the reality is, when someone is addicted, or mastered, or in bondage, they can intellectually know, "I shouldn't be doing this", BUT because they are under the Power of something else, this "something else" continues to control and dominate them.

Question: Can I be so bold today and ask you... What has 'mastered' you? Something that is bigger than you, something that you think that you could quit at any time, but you haven't quit yet?

Believe it or not, the root of the problem in most cases in our lives is Idolatry.

Idolatry: We are allowing *something* besides God to control us. We have a false God that we need to function. Without this, we don't feel alive.

Isaiah 44- Backstory:

A carpenter cuts down trees and he takes the wood, which is a neutral object and he did some good things with it.

- He made a fire
- He cooked something
- He kept himself warm

Then he took this neutral object and suddenly, he made an Idol out of it. And he started to worship it; which is what a lot of us do.

- Food is neutral, but for some, food becomes a god.
- Entertainment is not all bad, but for some, entertainment becomes a god.
- All Medication is not bad.

So, something NEUTRAL all of a sudden takes over. The carpenter does good, but then makes an idol and bows down and prays to it and says, 'Save me, you are my god!'

How crazy, and yet, so many of us act in just the same way.

Isaiah 44:18-19 (NIV)

Their eyes are plastered over so they cannot see, and their minds closed so they cannot understand. No one stops to think... "Half of it I use for fuel... shall I make a detestable thing from what is left? Shall I bow down to a block of wood?"

In most of our addictions, here is what's going on: We are seeking to find what only God can provide in something besides God Himself.

I am going to give you Five Easy Steps to Become an Addict and Wreck your Life.

Step Number 1: Don't admit you have a problem. No matter what!

Jeremiah 3:13 (NIV)

Only acknowledge your guilt.

Instead, tell yourself you can quit at any time, even though you never have before; just make yourself think that!

Don't ever believe that those who care for you the most can be objective at all about your life; you know better!

Step Number 2: I encourage you to gratify your fleshly desires. When your body wants something, give in every time!

Galatians 5:16-17 (NIV)

So I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. For the flesh desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the flesh. They are in conflict with each other, so that you are not to do whatever you want.

In other words for those of you that are believers, you have spiritually been born again; therefore, your spirit can communicate with God and God can lead you on the spirit-filled, spirit-led, spirit-directed life.

But there is going to be a WAR! God is going to lead you some way, and your body is going to say, "No, I want this!"

Your body wants to look at something, look at it! Your body wants to smoke something, smoke it! Your body wants to buy something, buy it! Your body wants to eat something; whatever your body wants, your body gets!

Step Number 3: Make sure you rationalize your behavior and make plenty of excuses.

Luke 14 shows a great example of this when Jesus told a parable and said: This guy was inviting people to the banquet, but they all "began to make excuses."

The first says, "I just bought a field and I must go and see it. Please excuse me."
Another says, "I just bought five oxen, and I'm on my way to try them out. Please excuse me."

So, another says, "I just got married, so I can't come. Please excuse me."

You need to do this! Whatever rationalization works for you, go with it!

Step Number 4: Always keep your addiction a SECRET!

Proverbs 28:13 (NIV)

Whoever conceals their sins does not prosper, but the one who confesses and renounces them finds mercy.

Question: Do you know why SIN mushrooms in your life? Because Sin grows best in the dark; so keep it in the dark!

Step Number 5: Depend on your own power, not God's!

2 Corinthians 10:3-5 (NIV)

For though we live in the world, we do not wage war as the world does. The weapons that we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds!

The weapons of God, they have the explosive, miraculous power to demolish, or to tear down the false beliefs that hold us in bondage! We take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ!

If you struggle in any of these areas, do what I call the David and Goliath affirmation.

David looked up at this giant, everybody else said, "He's too big to beat!" David looked up and said, "No, I think he's too big to miss!"

So TODAY there needs to be a WINNER and a LOSER! There can only be ONE MASTER! Who are you looking to? The Giant or God!?