

## **Foundation of the sermon**

### ***Purpose***

To show the nature of addictive sin.

### ***Principle Idea:***

God wants to heal Israel, but it is found to be terminally sinful. The nature of addictive sin is revealed in this passage.

### ***Type of Outline***

Exposition based on Hosea 7:1-12

## **I. Introduction**

Addictive sin is a disease. By saying this I am not giving license to sin. I am not saying I sin because I can't help myself. I am not saying I can catch it like the flu through some virus floating through the air. I am saying that sin is like an addiction.

The heroin addict is not compelled by a need for the drug the first time he takes it. Nor even for the first few times he takes it. He becomes chemically dependent on it through usage. Eventually, and heroin is certainly a very addictive drug and it doesn't take long, the addict needs it and has to have it. Sin is not a compelled need when we engage in it, but sin that involves our passion can become something we crave and must have and can not stop doing when practiced over a period of time.

We are warned in the Scripture not to become so wrapped up in sin that we can't stop it.

Today's passage discusses and describes the sin of Israel at this juncture in their history as addictive sin. It tells us of its devastating nature, and its horrible affects on their character and their ability to repent.

The passage today is Hosea 7:1-12

1 When I would heal Israel, then is the iniquity of Ephraim uncovered, and the wickedness of Samaria; for they commit falsehood, and the thief entereth in, and the troop of robbers ravageth without.

2 And they consider not in their hearts that I remember all their wickedness: now have their own doings beset them about; they are before my face.

3 They make the king glad with their wickedness, and the princes with their lies.

4 They are all adulterers; they are as an oven heated by the baker; he ceaseth to stir the fire, from the kneading of the dough, until it be leavened.

5 On the day of our king the princes made themselves sick with the heat of wine; he stretched out his hand with scoffers.

6 For they have made ready their heart like an oven, while they lie in wait: their baker sleepeth all the night; in the morning it burneth as a flaming fire.

7 They are all hot as an oven, and devour their judges; all their kings are fallen: there is none among them that calleth unto me.

8 Ephraim, he mixeth himself among the peoples; Ephraim is a cake not turned.

9 Strangers have devoured his strength, and he knoweth it not: yea, gray hairs are here and there upon him, and he knoweth it not.

10 And the pride of Israel doth testify to his face: yet they have not returned unto Jehovah their God, nor sought him, for all this.

11 And Ephraim is like a silly dove, without understanding: they call unto Egypt, they go to Assyria.

12 When they shall go, I will spread my net upon them; I will bring them down as the birds of the heavens; I will chastise them, as their congregation hath heard.

## **II. Body**

### **A. Sickness of the heart because of Sin**

#### **1. The Great Physician wants to heal soul of sinners but some would not be healed. (1-3)**

##### **a) Jesus was the healer and wanted to heal: (1a)**

In Luke 19:10 " For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost."

In Luke 9:1 when sending out the Apostles He sent them and commissioned them as healers and preachers. The passage says:

"Then he called his twelve disciples together, and gave them power and authority over all devils, and to cure diseases. 2 And he sent them to preach the kingdom of God, and to heal the sick. 3 And he said unto them, Take nothing for your journey, neither staves, nor scrip, neither bread, neither money; neither have two coats apiece."

##### **b) The root cause of sickness is manifested. (1b,c)**

Sin is a matter of the heart. In this passage God's desire was to heal the people of sin. When He wanted to heal them He found them to be deathly ill with the disease of sin. That sin that was not apparent on the surface revealed itself. It's like going into the physician with a obvious problem, but while there he discovers that you have a more serious problem, when he x-rays you, or takes your blood.

I one time travelled to St. George Utah from Salt Lake when I worked in that area. The City had a dispatch console that was not working after a storm. I began to diagnose the console. I found a bad component. I replaced it. When I did I found that several other problems appeared. As I fixed them one by one, other problems manifested themselves. Each time I found a problem them I corrected them. I did this for two days. Finally I found the main problem that was causing the City the biggest problem I fixed it and flew home. The truth is I had to find all the other issues get them out of the way so I could fix the root problem.

Just like that this passage indicates that God's desire was to heal the nation of Israel. When He analyzed the problem on the surface. He found that the source or root problem was much deeper, and was not obvious to the casual observer. It was a matter of the heart.

**c) The depths of sin is revealed to God but hidden to the sinner. (1d-f,2,3)**

(1) The extent of Sin.

Israel as a nation was sinful, but the root cause of their sin was found in their chief tribe Ephraim and in their chief city Samaria. They had manipulated and twisted the society and its religious practice causing the whole nation to sin. According to this passage the whole nation is filled with liars and thieves and is a band of robbers. Here we have the incurable nature of Israel's sin exposed. It began in the heart but has spread throughout the entire nation. It has permeated every aspect of their existence.

(1) The effect of Sin on the Sinner

Notice verse 2: Here it says that the nation was ignoring the messages of their heart. It's sort of like that modern song that says "If loving you is wrong, I don't wanna be right." The writer

of the song is saying look on some level deep inside I know this isn't right, but I am going to ignore it.

When we are deep in sin we don't want to think about it. We don't want to remember why we shouldn't be doing what we are doing. I am a fan of Al Stewart. He once wrote a song called Modern Times. A repeated line in that song goes: "I don't remember, I don't wanna remember, I don't want to think, just leave me here to drink, wrapped up in the arms of New York City."

The fact is continuous sin caused Israel to harden its heart so that it no longer recognized sin. This was not a new condition for Israel. They had hardened their hearts before. Take a look at

Psalm 95:7-10 I will read this from the JPS version:

"To-day, if ye would but hearken to His voice! 8 'Harden not your heart, as at Meribah, as in the day of Massah in the wilderness; 9 When your fathers tried Me, proved Me, even though they saw My work. 10 For forty years was I wearied with that generation, and said: It is a people that do err in their heart, and they have not known My ways;"

## **B. Sinful desire burns hot in the soul of the sinner. (4-7)**

### 1. Sins of passion.

Notice the sins that burn out of control in these passages. First there is adultery. The second is the abuse of alcohol. These two sins can become addictive and tragically so.

How often have we seen actors or actresses come and go from rehab facilities for misuse and addiction to alcohol and drugs. They get to where they can't stay away from the stuff.

More recently we have found that some celebrities have checked themselves into clinics because they become addicted to adultery. They have so distorted their perspective of what sex is all about that they want the new, the different more and more and they can't get enough of the next thing.

The sin of adultery in this passage is directed at the idolatry of Israel. Israel had become so passionate about their idol worship they couldn't and wouldn't give it up.

The leadership in Israel had so desired debauchery that they couldn't stop. My son Eric wanted to be in advertising at one time. He got into the business and found that he had to work day and night. That the time at night was taken up in entertaining. Taking clients to places where they could drink and indulge themselves. He didn't like it he got out of the business. The kings and princes in Israel entertained so much, over indulging themselves so often and to such a great extent that they could no longer stop themselves

2. Sin that burns out of control damage more than just the sinner.

The passage compares Israel and its leadership to two objects in a story. The first is a baker that is neglectful. The second is to the oven itself that gets to hot.

This fire causes the bread to rise, it bakes it, but then it consumes it and everything within its influence. These sins of passion burning out of control damage not only the people involved but also those in close proximity. This is why there are support groups for families of the abusers of alcohol and and drugs.

3. Sin denied can not be overcome.

As we noted earlier Israel had hardened their heart against the message and help from God. They did not want to hear. They did not want to admit they had a problem.

One of the first steps in overcoming addiction is to admit you have a problem.

Here in verse 7 we find that none of the leadership and really no one in the population of Israel wanted to ask God for help. None would call on Him.

### **C. Sin damages the character of the Sinner. (8-12)**

Sin left unchecked causes serious damage to the nature and character of the sinner. This passage mentions several of those:

1. As a sinner you begin hanging out with the wrong crowd. (8)

Ephraim mixed themselves with the other nations. A person who is addicted to sin will gather to themselves others who are like themselves. They tend to avoid their old friends, they turn a new chapter in their lives. They might still hang out with some old friends but their heart is with their new friends. They may try to appear as upstanding but secretly they are sick with sin.

2. Sinners don't see the effects of sin on their lives. (9)

Like Dracula in the movies, they put a drape over the mirrors. In the case of Dracula he did this to hide his nature from others. In the case of sinners they don't want others to know, but frankly they don't want to know themselves either.

In James 1:22-14 it speaks of a similar condition. The sinner in this case does look in the mirror but as soon as he steps away from the mirror he forgets what he saw. It states:

"For if any be a hearer of the word, and not a doer, he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a glass: 24 For he beholdeth himself, and goeth his way, and straightway forgetteth what manner of man he was."

3. Sinners become proud of their sin. (10)

Some wear their sin like a badge of honor. Look at your papers, listen to the news, think for yourselves. Think of all the people and groups in our society who express their pride in who they are and seek for tolerance of their particular sin.

In I Corinthians 5 Paul chastises the church for being tolerant of the sin of incest. They were proud of how they appeared to the world allowing a man who was involved with his father's wife.

He says in 5:1-2:

"It is reported commonly that there is fornication among you, and such fornication as is not so much as named among the Gentiles, that one should have his father's wife. 2 And ye are puffed up, and have not rather mourned, that he that hath done this deed might be taken away from among you."

in this passage Paul turns like Hosea to the leavening process for an illustration. In the I Corinthians passage the leavening had to do with Passover time and the picture of sin puffing up the sinner, like bread is puffed up with leaven.

They were proud that they had sinned. This passage as well as many others show that sin tolerated or authorized as "okay," is often the source of pride.

## 2. Sin darkens and destroys understanding. (11)

Israel is pictured in this passage as becoming silly, foolish in their reasoning. To borrow a well worn phrase: "They were looking at the world through rose colored glasses." Their perspective was so distorted they were seeing things as good that were evil, and things that were good as evil.

In Romans 1:21 it discusses this self-delusion that takes place in the mind of someone addicted to sin. It states:

"Because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened."

Israel was steeped in sin. There is a modern book called 1984 in which the world is turned upside down. Where everything is called by a name which describes it as the direct opposite of what it is. This is similar to what happens in the life of someone wrapped up in addictive sin.

In Isaiah 5:20-24 there is a warning to people of who through distorted reasoning confuse evil and good. This passage while directed at the social injustice of Judah sums up the nature of the sin of Israel. It states:

"Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil; that put darkness for light, and light for darkness; that put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter! 21 Woe unto them that are wise in their own eyes, and prudent in their own sight! 22 Woe unto them that are mighty to drink wine, and men of strength to mingle strong drink: 23 Which justify the wicked for reward, and take away the righteousness of the righteous from him! 24 Therefore as the fire devoureth the stubble, and the flame consumeth the chaff, so their root shall be as rottenness, and

their blossom shall go up as dust: because they have cast away the law of the LORD of hosts, and despised the word of the Holy One of Israel.”

### **III. Conclusion**

Habitual sin is like a sickness. It causes you to lie, and distort the truth. It robs you of the ability to recognize sin. It causes you to become numb to sin, to tolerate it in your life and the lives of others.

Sin is a matter of the heart. It turns your heart and desires upside down. What you need you don't want, what you want you don't need. This causes you to harden your heart against God's ways. It hardens your heart against God's people.

Stop habitual sin now. Do it before its too late. Take inventory of your life look in that mirror James talks about, look at it often, don't forget what it says about you.

God wants to heal you. He will work through the layers of sin if you will let Him. He will cure each one. He will get to the root causes of sinful trends in your life, and will cure that as well.

There is a catch however you must recognize that you have sinned. You must be willing to let God through the barriers you have set to project you from the light of the gospel. You must be willing to change.

Won't you do that now.

Title: Sin is addictive.