

## Happy Pt. 5: Thieves

John 10:10-11, Romans 6:16; 18, Isaiah 53:6

### I. ME

- A. Thank Aaron
- B. Review- What makes you happy?
  - 1. No Thing
  - 2. Investing
  - 3. Peace Self, Others, God
  - 4. Managing Money Well
- C. These are things we all kind of know deep down right?
  - 1. Examples.
- D. But for some reason we keep messing them up.
  - 1. You ever see someone undermine their own happiness in these areas?
    - a. Examples
- E. There seems to be enough pain in the world, without us adding to it ourselves
- F. What does this come from?
  - a. Not really understanding the relationship between pleasure and happiness.
- G. What we're going to find today is that if you love you... you should really consider following Jesus.

### II. WE

- A. **John 10:10a** (One of favorite verses)
  - 1. "The thief comes only to steal, kill, and destroy."
  - 2. Thief... anybody that comes into your life and steals something, kills something, or destroys something.
    - a. Examples.
- B. Question: **Who has the most power to steal, kill, and destroy your life**... what you hold dear, your future?
  - 1. Answer: **YOU**
  - 2. "I'm my own worst enemy"

- 3. You bought it, you built it, you signed for it, you watched it, you ate it, you drank it, you smoked it, you dated it, you slept with it, and some of you married it.
- 4. Think back on those things you regret doing, you wish you could go back and change... who's usually the star of that show? YOU

### C. John 10:10b

- 1. I have come (contrasting from thief) that they (his audience/you) may have life, and have it to the full.
- 2. Full: Abundant... Superior, Extraordinary, Surpassing, Uncommon.
  - a. Extrapolate this idea

### D. John 10:11

- 1. I am the Good Shepherd (Shepherd made sense to them)(how good?)
- 2. The Good Shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. (That good)
- 3. If someone will die for you they are for you.
- 4. Jesus contrasts himself with the thief.
  - a. Steal/give, kill/protect, destroy/build
- 5. Calls you sheep. Sheep are dumb.
  - a. "Well that's offensive."
  - b. You bought it, ate it, drank it, dated it... you've made some baaaaaa-d decisions. (too good not to steal)
- E. Now sometimes you are your own worst enemy (your own thief)... but you're not the only thief... Sin
  - 1. Sin... whatever someone shouldn't do.
  - 2. Sin separates
    - a. Others, ourselves, God
    - b. Extrapolate
- 3. Sin only steals, kills, and destroys**
- 4. It ensnares you
- F. So we have a thief within and a thief without.
  - 1. This isn't anything new...

- G. So why do we let these things rob from us?
- H. B/c we don't understand, are confused, about the relationship between pleasure and happiness.
1. Started this series talking about Holy and Happy. God actually wants both for us, and the first leads us to the second.
  2. Its similar with Happiness and Pleasure.
  3. God wants us to find pleasure in our lives.
    - a. God made sex.
    - b. Jesus made wine.
    - c. Jesus' disciples wore clothes and probably enjoyed getting a new donkey now and then.
  4. **God created us with a capacity for happiness and pleasure.**
  5. He's not against us having pleasure.
- I. When things start going south it's a problem of our PRIORITY... **The problem is priority.**
- a. Happiness (true happiness) leads to pleasure... but pursuing pleasure for its own sake actually ends up destroying happiness.
  - b. **If you prioritize pleasure over happiness** (long term/lasting happiness) **you lose both.**
  - c. If you solely pursue pleasure and ignore the principles of investing in happiness you will end up with neither.
- J. Eventually, Pleasure loses its pleasure... and becomes a prison.
1. Doesn't have to be something illegal or immoral
  2. Used to take one glass or bottle, then two, now three or four.
  3. Begins as a pastime, then a pathway, then a habit, then it becomes an addiction and you are trapped.
  4. Anytime pleasure becomes the priority over happiness it becomes our master.
  5. **Over time pleasure loses its pleasure and becomes a prison.**

6. When we prioritize pleasure over the principles of happiness that Jesus laid out in the sermon on the mount, we lose both.

### III. GOD

- A. Apostle Paul explains it for us
1. About 25 years after Jesus resurrected
  2. Hated Xians... became church starter.
  3. Write to different churches telling them what it means to follow Jesus.

#### B. Romans 6:16a

1. "Don't you know (I guess not... you should already know this) that when you offer yourselves to someone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one you obey...
  - a. Profound... when you offer yourself as a slave you're a slave to them... sometimes we make the Bible way more complicated than it needs to be.
  - b. This is just common sense right?
  - c. Don't think religion or theology... just a fact of the world.
2. When you offer yourself to someone or something... give yourself to their control, you are controlled by them.
  - a. You want one? Sure. Another? Yes, yes, yes.
  - b. When you say yes to pleasure over and over... without thinking if it'll invest in future happiness or unhappiness, you become a slave to it.
3. "No no, I'm choosing."
4. Exactly... Paul says... the more you choose this pleasure over real happiness, the more you are sucked in, the more you give up control... you are behaving like a slave.
  - a. You're behaving like you "have to" not simply like you "want to."

#### C. Romans 6:16b

1. ... whether you slaves to sin, which leads to death (sin steals, kills, and destroys) or to obedience (to Jesus) which leads to righteousness.

2. You can either offer yourself as a slave to that which will kill everything around you...
  - a. Pleasure is not always a sin (rarely starts that way) but it soon gets prioritized over relationships and becomes sin that destroys.
3. Or you can offer yourself to obedience which leads to righteousness
  - a. Right-ness. Having a right relationship with God... no separation.
4. You have to serve someone.
  - a. You can serve pleasure and become it's slave, and never experience true happiness
  - b. Or you can serve Jesus, and have true happiness and pleasure and the freedom that those bring and ultimately peace.
  - c. Peace with others, peace with yourself, and peace with God.
5. You can say yes to pleasure over and over or say yes to God through Jesus...
  - a. Peace with God paves the way to peace with ourselves and enables us to make peace with others.
6. When you follow the Good Shepherd, you make peace with God, it allows you to make peace with yourself and gives you the ability to make peace with others.
7. Every happy person has this peace.

#### IV. YOU

- A. **If you invest in what is better, you will feel better.**
- B. Trouble comes when we aren't happy and we look for the quick fix... in pleasure.
  1. I'm unhappy I'm going to buy, I'm going to eat, I'm going to drink, I'm going to call...
  2. That's when we make decisions that start investing in our unhappiness account. That ultimately undermine and destroy our own happiness.
- C. Jesus says... Stop letting the thief steal your happiness. Stop looking for the quick fix of immediate pleasure. It doesn't make you happy, it kills your happiness.
  1. I am the Good Shepherd... Follow me... invest in happiness, and ultimately, not immediately, you will feel better, and you will have peace and you will have true happiness.
- D. Every time you go to that quick fix pleasure, every time you say yes, every time you offer yourself to pleasure you become more and more of it's slave and it slowly steals your happiness.
- E. Northpoint CC... **"Ultimately, following Jesus will make your life better and make you better at life."**
  1. But it's not a quick fix, it's not instant... you have to invest and keep making deposits.

#### V. YOU and GOD

- A. Ask you a tough question...
  1. You're safe. You are only answering in your mind. No one can hear you. I can't read it on your face
    - a. You owe it to yourself (those you love) to answer honestly.
    - b. You don't have to do anything about your answer.
    - c. Only a thief would want to steal your future happiness
    - d. Only a thief would want you to brush this off.

## **B. Is there a pleasure that is killing your happiness?**

1. Maybe a sin, maybe not.
  2. Is there something you keep saying yes to as a quick fix that you are slowly losing your ability to say no to?
  3. Is there a pleasure, might not be immoral/might be, that is beginning to steal your or someone else's happiness.
  4. You might not want to admit it... b/c then that means you have to do something about it... no you don't. This is all happening inside you.
  5. Besides you already know the answer... just be honest.
  6. Is there a pleasure you've said yes to so many times that it's beginning to destroy your or someone else's happiness?
  7. Without meaning to you've prioritized pleasure over your own happiness.
- C. Would you be willing to trade that thieving master for a Good Shepherd?
1. Someone who is so for you, so committed to your ultimate happiness, that they died for you?
  2. He offers to take that enslavement and give you peace and life and life to the full.
- D. It's not by trying harder...
1. **Book Illustration.**
  2. **Isaiah 53:6** (talking about the importance of Jesus coming)
    - a. "We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to our own way; and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all."
  3. Is it time for you to exchange your efforts to make yourself happy, to give yourself peace with God, others, and yourself... to exchange you trying to be really really good to make God happy, for a Shepherd who died for you and offers you a full life or peace?
    - a. Give you a chance to do that in a minute.

## E. If you have done that...

1. But you keep making yourself a slave... remember...

### **2. Romans 6:18.**

3. You are no longer a slave... invest in happiness, choose to follow your Shepherd and rely on Jesus to give you the ability and wisdom to know the right account to invest in.

## **VI. WE (Band)**

- A. If you prioritize immediate pleasure over investing in happiness, you will lose both.
- B. If you prioritize investing in happiness over immediate pleasure you will ultimately enjoy both.
- C. Jesus offers to give you a life of true happiness.
  1. Abundant happiness
  2. A superior life, Extraordinary life
- D. Choose to follow the Good Shepherd.
- E. Closing
  1. Exchange your efforts... for Jesus' offer of life
    - a. Tell him you want to Exchange your slavery to the thieves (yourself and sin) for following the Good Shepherd who gives true life.
    - b. Stop undermining your own happiness by trying to just try harder to be better... put those things on Jesus and accept His free gift of a new life and a new relationship with God now and forever.
  2. Ask him to help you rely on him and trust him.