

Feb. 20, 2011 "What We Grab, Grabs us" Leviticus 19

I read a story of an eagle flying over a lake and suddenly swooped down to grab a two-foot long, 1 lb fish in its talons. It flew up to around 1000 feet and suddenly spun down and splashed into the water. Later both the fish and the eagle were found dead. Apparently the talons were so deeply embedded in the flesh of the fish, the eagle couldn't let go when it got too heavy. The eagle helps us understand that what we grab, grabs us.

When our sinful nature takes over and we grab things that will hurt us; they grab back and hold us like the Chinese Handcuffs. If we grab for cigarettes, they grab us back and can kill us. If we grab for alcohol, it grabs back and can kill us. If we grab for more pills, they grab us back and can kill us. If we grab for pornography, it grabs us back and kills us spiritually. We can grab for too much fast food and it grabs back and ruins our health. We can grab for gambling, and it grabs us and leaves us bankrupt.

I saw a movie on SYFY this past week about bacteria from outer space that fed on metal. It would adhere itself to iron or steel. If a person gets curious and touches it, it drains all the iron and minerals from the blood and kills you. Grab for this bacteria and it will grab you back and kill you. Sin acts the same way. We get curious about this or that and it can grab hold of us and can kill us.

The wonderful thing about what we grab, grabs us, is that it's true for our relationship with God. Faith grabs hold of God's blessings. Jesus died on the cross for our sins some 2000 years ago. Faith puts my sins there on Jesus so His blood washes them away. Faith brings His forgiveness to me. Faith assures us that when we are grabbing God, He grabs us. John 10 tells us that no one can snatch His sheep from His hand. He holds on to His sheep. Isaiah 49 tells us that our names are engraved in the palm of His hand. He grabs hold of us. Romans 8 tells us that nothing in all of creation can separate us from His love. He grabs on for eternity.

As a kid, I would walk on the ice with my Dad. I would hold his hand and he would hold mine. With Dad holding my hand, I never fell! It's time for us to let go of those things that hurt us in this life and cause us to fall and grab hold in faith to our God Who loves us and wants to keep us from falling too. Through His Word, Holy Communion, prayer, and all Jesus has for us, He can help us loosen our grips on the evil that grips us back, free us from evil's hold so we can hold to Him even more. In the Lord's prayer, we pray "deliver us from evil." Lord, help us let go of things, people, habits, that grab us and hurt us and give us hearts filled with faith to hold to You and Your word and Your will for us.

Because God is Good.. .At 11 The Time, He wants nothing more than to hold us here and forever. When we grab hold of evil, evil grabs us back and can lead us to death and hell. With God's help, and only with His help, can we open our grasp from evil in our lives, just say no and let it go. Now, reach out to God, giving thanks for Jesus our Savior and He will lead you in this life and walk with you to heaven. Amen...pastor matthews