

Don Brackbill, Jr.
Devotional – The Addict through Jesus’ Eyes

First Lady Nancy Reagan introduced into popular culture the phrase, “Just say No!”, designed to address rising addiction.

If you struggle with drug addiction, just look at the drug (whether it be narcotics, heroin, cocaine or marijuana) and just say no. If you have an alcohol problem, just decline the next drink. If you are a compulsive overeater, just push back from the table. If you have another addiction, just say no!

I believe that addiction is more complicated than that.

The alcoholic is not just weak willed. The sexual addict is not a pervert. The narcotic abuser is not a moral failure. They are not these things because they can’t “Just Say No!” They are attempting to fill a spiritual hunger.

What we miss is that an addict is an individual in pain – they are in pain because the deepest longings of their lives are not met and are trying to cover up what is missing and fill their broken heart.

Jesus knew this. He hung out with people who were flawed, in pain and struggling. The Pharisees condemned Jesus because he was a friend of tax-collectors and sinners. They accused Jesus of drunkenness (because he was with drunkards, Mt. 11:19).

Instead of condemning the drunkards (the sinners), the one with corrupted values (the tax collectors), the promiscuous (the woman at the well), Jesus confronted their spiritual yearnings.

Today, instead of condemning the addict...realize that their addiction simply indicates that they are searching. They are searching for a spiritual connection with the God and Christ Jesus.

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Hopefully, today, you will see the troubled and sinful and see people who are looking to satisfy a deep inner spiritual longing. In in seeing them, perhaps you will offer them what they are looking for – an experience with Jesus!