

THEME: SEVEN DEADLY PASSIONS – BITTERNESS

TOPIC: WHAT IS BITTERNESS?

TEXT: EPHESIANS 4:31-32; HEBREWS 12:14-15; JAMES 1:19-20; ROMANS 12:17-21; 1 JOHN 4:20; COLOSSIANS 3:13; ECCLESIASTICS 7:9; MARK 11:25

INTRODUCTION

Bitterness is defined as anger and disappointment at being treated unfairly. It is synonymous with resentment and envy.

Paul the Apostle powerfully captures the impact of bitterness in *Hebrews 12:15*.

The imagery in this passage conveys the fact that once the roots grow, they draw strength and nutrients to continue to supply a reason for cracking through even the most arduous defence.

WHAT IS BITTERNESS?

1. Bitterness is a powerful force that can cause mental, spiritual, emotional and physical cracks in the life of those who walk in it. You cannot live in bitterness and enter the blessing which God has prepared for you.
2. Bitterness is like a chain. Once it wraps itself around you, the result is a downward trend.

Paul talked of the root of bitterness and most times when you ask people what made them bitter, it often sounds nonsensical. Yes, it is usually mundane things like dislike for people or expressing ourselves as if the other person is less than us.

By this people will often say, “I just don’t like her” or “who does she think she is”. Furthermore, sometimes they will say, “I can even do it better than she can”.

3. Bitterness is something that people will deny in their life until they see the face or remember the faces of the person who had offended them. Their own faces contort, their demeanour becomes sour, and people’s spiritual status does not preclude them from bitterness.
4. It has been known that sometimes great Bible teachers, prayer warriors, great psalmists, people we have respected have become angry when they saw someone they know, someone who had caused them to be offended.

Walking in offence is like handing over the control of your life to other people. Walking in offence makes you hand over your joy to imaginary enemies, imaginary attackers.

5. Once you are in a state of bitterness, the people you are bitter about don’t even need to be present to control you.
6. Bitterness precludes you from heaven’s blessing since you have refused to give earthly forgiveness.
7. Bitterness is like handing over your next access to the blessing of God, your ticket to the favour of God. It is handing it over to the people about whom you are offended.
8. Bitterness exposes your body to sickness and disease. Tumours, headaches, pains and pressures partner with your body once you walk in bitterness. Why? Because you have denied yourself the benefits of the covenant.

9. Bitterness makes you rejoice in iniquity – that is evil happening to the people who have offended you. It makes you wish them dead.

CONCLUSION

Finally, when you walk in bitterness your theology becomes lopsided, you cannot quite understand why God has not killed all those who offended you and if they prosper at such times, it makes you question God's wisdom. It is as if God has chosen to partner with those you consider your enemies.

Bitterness makes your life an open, incurable sore which is perpetually exposed until the gangrene or other destructions come in.

You cannot fully enjoy the blessing of the Lord if you are unable to walk in forgiveness no matter what people have done to you.