

SET FREE MINISTRIES

FREEDOM *according to* JESUS



Session 4

Bitter Roots

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4 Bitter Roots

Root Systems

We call it “Bitter Roots” cause like a root system in a plant, or in a tree, these roots cause a bitterness in life! As roots support the plant and provide all the water and nutrients for its growth, so in a similar way do we have roots that allows us to draw the needed strength and nurture from God.

Prior to being born again, these "roots" began to grow and are well developed by the time we are five years old. From these "roots" springs forth, the stem, the trunk, the branches, and leaves, — the development of all that makes up who we are, and how we respond to life.

Our environment while growing up has affected these “roots”. If the environment was filled with lots of love, gentleness, and a tenderness to the body soul and spirit, good things were drawn into our lives along with a character that is displaying good fruit.

However, if we were exposed to an unsafe environment filled with strife, anger, hate, abuse, rejection, neglect or abandonment, then those "bitter roots" will draw from those polluted waters and produce bitter fruits that not only affect you, but also those around you, — and in most cases, without knowing.

If you've got the Fruit, then you've got the Root

You cannot get good fruit from a bad tree that has a bad root system. If you have bad fruit in your life, then there is a bitter root somewhere that is producing it.

And you cannot kill a bad fruit tree just by picking the fruit off of it. That fruit will reappear again and again and again.

Recognizing the Root System

Recognizing that bad fruit exists is a step in the right direction, but that alone won't get us to the root issues on why that bad fruit in a person's life. We need to dig down and kill the root that is producing the fruit. Even then, it may take a few attempts to dig it all out. It all depends on how deep that root is, and how overlapping it is in ones personality.

Judgmental and critical spirits are some of the most destructive bitterroot influences in our lives and can hinder our ability to receive and give love. We usually judge others as a result of being wounded by something they did or said. It can come in the form of bitterness, blame, condemnation, jealousy, envy, unrighteous anger, or unforgiveness.

Judgment demands Payment

When we judge others, we set in motion a spiritual law that demands a response. It's that crossing of the line where we allow the adversary to go dig out his hunting tag because we, by our actions, have officially opened up hunting season. The way we judge others is the way we will be judged. The standard and measure of our judgment will come back on us at some point in our lives.

Unfortunately, the judgment we receive is usually much greater than what we sowed because the flip side of sowing and reaping along with increase has now been activated. It is not God judging us, but the law, the very law that is coming out from an office where the adversary has legally right to his hunting tags!

When we judge, we are demanding payment for those wrongs issued out; we are the ones that have officially opened up hunting season, we are the ones issuing out hunting tags.

We cannot expect mercy for ourselves, and judgment on others who have wronged us. Our bitterness or resentment towards those who hurt us, causes a judgment that demands justice. The judgment coming against us, — is the curse of reaping what we have sown.

Fact 1 - Bitter Root Judgments and Expectations

Judgments have the full power of the law behind them. And that judgment comes back to us through a defilement on those around us through the development of bitter expectations from those judgments.

Bitter expectations are more “psychological” but they can seem like truth because of the fulfillment of the Law of Judgment. You’re getting what you expect! Most bitterroot judgments remain hidden or forgotten until Holy Spirit brings them back to our remembrance. That thing in the past will eventually catch up and show its ugly head!

Bad Fruit always reveals a Bitter Root

The first indicator that we have judgments is the fruit associated with those judgments expressed in our lives! First they are off the cuff remarks, which eventually generates a lifestyle becoming part of our DNA.

Judging Parents - Probably the first place we judge others is with our parents. This could have happened early in your life and you may have completely forgotten about it. At this stage in your life, and I’m talking about today, what your parents did to you, even though it may have been wrong, is not as important as the judgment that you made against them.

They are responsible for what they did, but we are responsible for how we responded to the wrong things they did. When we judge our parents we also dishonor our parents and put the law of dishonoring our parents into motion. We put a curse on ourselves, — and things will not go well for us. We may need to ask Holy Spirit to show you areas where we may have judged our parents.

When you judge, the bitter expectancies that you form in your mind and spirit are drawn out of the people closest to you. If you judged your father for being passive, you will draw that passive nature out of your own family. If you judged your parents for getting a divorce, you will draw that same tendency out of your spouse towards divorce.

Fact 2 - Satan Uses Our Judgments to Release the Curses

He accuses us and pronounces us guilty of every judgment so that he can bring the consequences of that judgment into our life. It's like the adversary standing before the courts in heaven holding his legal hunting tag demanding his right to bring the consequence of our judgments.

Every unconfessed judgment opens a door of darkness and steers us into the land of curses.

Repeated violations begin to build strongholds, — habitual patterns of thinking in our lives that have a way of influencing our thoughts, words, emotions, and actions.

Like I said, it becomes a part of our distorted DNA.

God does not bring the problems and destruction into our lives; it is the consequences of our Judgments. Only through the grace of God and the cross of Jesus Christ can we escape the on going Judgments and the continual roller coaster rides that fill our lives!

We become what we have judged in others. That law was set in motion the moment we judged. When we judge, we doom ourselves to do the same thing!

Our judgment of others allows it to take root in us, and eventually, like a boomerang, will bring forth the same behavior either in ourselves, in our spouse, in our children, or all of the above!

The spiritual law and forces within us begin to influence those around us, and can draw out that same bad behavior in them. Then we begin to do what it is that we thought we would never be doing!

Fact 3 - The Results of Judging

In nature, — there is a law of physics that says, “for every action, there is an equal and opposite reaction.” That same law works in the spiritual realm as well.

We activate the law of sowing and reaping. The seeds we sow of anger or resentment may seem tiny, but they will keep growing and come back on us again and again.

Often these hidden judgments and bitter expectancies cause us to continue doing the same thing even when we know what we are doing is wrong.

We just can't seem to stop! The law of judgment says that what you measure out will be measured back to you. The judgment seeds we sow must someday be reaped, — if left unrepented for.

The longer it goes without repentance, the larger and larger the seed becomes. Generational patterns may be a result of sons judging their parents and reaping that same problem in their lives and marriages.

Because the judgments come back on us, we begin to expect those bad things to continue happening to us. We develop bitter expectancies that are now self-fulfilling! Judgments produce bitter expectancies that will force other people around us to fulfill them.

Fact 4 - Bitter Root Judgments in Marriage

Since we have a complex past of whatever, with whomever, at wherever, in our past, we may not even be aware of what we bring into a marriage and how that controls our hearts, our perceptions, our attitudes, and our behavior.

The hidden things from the past become trigger points that cause us to explode at our spouse. Each spouse has certain expectancies of the other depending upon how they judged their parents while growing up. It's this distorted expectancy of our spouse to behave in certain ways based upon what we saw our parents do.

We expect them to treat us the way our parents treated each other. Our bitter expectancies become self-fulfilling prophecies as we draw that behavior out of them. Our mate will often end up living up to our expectancies!

We end up defiling those around us: Having a weak father could lead to being a weak husband; having a cold, distant father could lead to a cold, distant husband; having a domineering, controlling mother could lead you to being a domineering, controlling wife. No doubt about it, there will be parallels.

Our Judgments Condemn Us! We are doomed by the law to be exactly like the one we have judged in that area. We are driven by forces that we are not even aware of. And we cannot understand why we are behaving the way we are. Our judgments are like a boomerang. We set in motion what absolutely must return to us.

Fact 5 - Bitter Root Spinoffs - Expectancy and Vows

Once bitterroot judgments are hanging out there, then there are all kinds of other spinoffs that start to branch out like, — bitter root expectancy and vows.

When negative things hit the grid and its all looking like its heading south again, we start to expect the worse. This bitter root within us not only affects us but those around us as well. We live in a crazy world and it's amazing when things don't pan out, how quickly we pick up this distorted expectancy upon others and ourselves.

Most of us, if we are honest with ourselves, have spent a long time building a negative expectancy defense.

Our bitterroot expectancy can even cause others to act in a way that is contrary to the way they would normally behave. Many get defiled; many get derailed, causing all kinds of distortions, disruptions and discontent as your defilement upon them sends them on an ugly detour to who knows where!

Here are a few bitterroot expectancies made most often against father and mother: “Women will always be controlling” “Men can’t be trusted.” “No one ever listens to me.”

If this negative expectancy is something that has been passed down from the previous generation, well that makes it even more problematic as the stronghold is very much a reality that has deeply entrenched itself.

Spoken Vows

Words Negatively Spoken will Always Boomerang Back

When something goes wrong we tend to vocalize it negatively. We need to pull back from all that, — not only in our thinking, but also in our speech. Vows like: “I’ll never take those risks again,” — so now you suppress yourself from stepping out. “I’ll never let my temper go like my mom,” — so now you store up repressed anger. “I’ll never raise my voice,” — and now you silence yourself.

Or even more bizarre stuff like “You’re just like that bike gang down the street, nothing but trouble, one day your gonna end up in jail just like them”. We need to resist all this and speak life!

An inner vow is a hateful order against the body, and when spoken, it tracks through the mind, the heart and eventually into the body.

The words spoken have a creative force that will affect us until we give it all to Jesus. We do not grow out of them as we mature; the only way we are delivered from it is when we lay it all at the feet of Jesus.

Our mind may forget about the vow, but it will eventually manifest itself in our life and in physical form.

The manifestation of inner vows may lie dormant for years, until the time set by the vow, or the right situation, or the right person triggers that vow into action.

Vow - Example 1

There was a little girl who was continually bothered by her cruel brother, embarrassing and physically hurting her. One day, out of frustration, she vowed that she would never have a boy baby when she grew up. During her marriage she had two girls, but she miscarried three boys. Holy Spirit brought back the incident of the vow, and after breaking the vow, she was able to have a baby boy!

They usually are forgotten until Holy Spirit reveals them to us. Inner vows are lodge in the heart and cannot be removed by our own fleshly effort. They strongly resist change and work in clusters with other bitter roots, hidden resentments, and fears.

Only by using the authority of the Name of Jesus, can a person be released from an inner vow.

Vow - Example 2

Inner vows can block God's plan for our lives. For example, a controlling mom where a son showing his emotions and feelings always steered him into some of the most bizarre situations as she manipulated him during those emotional times for her advantage, — a form of control.

During all those years, while under those pressure moments, he made a vow, “I will never show my emotions or feelings around a woman, — ever”. Later, when he married, he may find it hard to express his feelings or emotions to his wife whom he absolutely loves, even though he may want to share them as he hits those marriage crossroads.

But something about his emotion triggers that vow and he now finds it hard to be that husband even though he desires the marriage to go to another level, something inside, that he is not aware of, stops him.

He may repent and try over and over again only to revert back to the old pattern programmed by the inner vow against his mother. The inner vow will continue to draw him into isolation as the marriage goes more and more silent, — until the vow is actually broken.

If that vow was not dealt with, he may be eventually withdraw from additional relationships and hardened his heart even more. He may have developed evasive and defensive habits to protect himself from being hurt. As that vow continues to travel greater fear steps in, — giving him the inability to trust.

How to Walk Free from Bitter Root Judgments and Expectancies

Jesus came not to do away with the law, but to fulfill it. What Jesus did through the cross was to become a substitute for us and fulfill the demands of the law for us. Those curses that we walk in for judging others was put on Jesus as He became a curse for us. By repenting and asking God’s forgiveness, we remove the demand of the law from us and place it on Jesus, back on the cross, where it needs to stay, and then we need to walk away and not partake.

Five Steps to Freedom from Judgments

1 - We need to ask Holy Spirit to reveal those judgments that we made against another person or our parents. Whenever we experience bad fruit in our lives, we need to check on the inside if this is not based upon some judgment we made in the past.

2 - Allow Holy Spirit to nail down the time when we made that judgment and invite Jesus to take care of each specific bitterroot judgment. Call the judgments to death on the cross.

3 - We need to ask God to forgive us for making that bitterroot judgment. We need to forgive those who may have done the wrong that caused us to make the judgment, and then we need to forgive ourselves for making it.

4 - We need to repent for how we have caused others to act badly around us, for drawing the negative out of them. We need to ask for a new heart that can bring out the best in others.

5 - We need to remain diligent to catch ourselves in the areas we have identified until the habit patterns are changed. Pray for God to reverse the old patterns and build a new way.

Summary - As we get free from the bitterroot judgments, the reverse begins to happen. People begin to respond just the opposite from the way they were responding before. Things begin to work together for good. The ones we hated the most become ones that we see with a whole different perspective. What used to bother us does not any more.

Galatians 6:7-8

Do not be deceived. God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, this he will also reap. For the one who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption, but the one who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life.

Romans 2:1-2

Therefore you have no excuse, everyone of you who passes judgment, for in that which you judge another, you condemn yourself; for you who judge practice the same things. And we know that the judgment of God rightly falls upon those who practice such things.

The Group Prayer - Introduction

We are going to go into a group prayer; actually we are going into war! But before we do, this is a good time to allow Holy Spirit to work with you on that list of bitter root judgment that you may have made upon people. We are going to bring that whole list to the Cross and leave it there! Then we are going to go into prayer. At the end of the prayer, — I just want you to take a deep breath and then just breathe out and then just wait upon on the Lord. No tongues, Let the Holy Spirit come upon you and minister to you.

Group Prayer - Repeat After Me

Jesus, I recognize I have judged these people on my list and have locked myself into the same attitude or behavior.

I choose to forgive him/her for hurting me, and I choose to release my right to hold this offense against him/her.

Lord Jesus, forgive me for judging these people.

I recognize that I have been reaping the same pattern throughout my life. I choose to forgive, and release my anger and bitterness to You, Lord. Please remove it from my heart.

Jesus, as for the structures of judgment and expectancy, habits, attitudes and reflexes I have built around this judgment, I ask You to bring those practices to death by the power of your cross.

Forgive me Jesus, where I have engaged with bitter root judgments!

Now take a deep breath and breathe out!

Instructors Prayer over the Group

By the power and authority of Jesus, I break these judgments, expectancies and vows off these ones here that have come before you Lord. I command the body soul and spirit of each one here present to come into alignment with the kingdom of heaven in Jesus name. Whom the Son sets free is free indeed.

I speak freedom restoration as to the Fathers original design for these very ones here present in Jesus name. That the demonic powers who had legal access through these judgments, expectancies and vows be absolutely torn down in Jesus name.

Holy Spirit, I ask that You would come and wash away any residue of spiritual darkness that may still be attached and that you would breath a freshness upon them in Jesus name! That You would begin to breath upon them even now in Jesus name!

Amen!