

OVERCOMING THREE HINDRANCES TO FORGIVENESS

1. Understand How Much You Have Been Forgiven

Matthew 18:23-35, NIV

- 10,000 talents = 10 million (if silver) to 3 billion dollars (if gold)
- 100 denarii – about \$ 20.00

2. Understand Your Own Capacity For Evil

Isaiah 64:6, NIV – (6) ... all our righteous acts are like filthy rags ...

Romans 7:18, NASB – (18) For I know that nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh ...

1 Timothy 1:15, NIV – *Here is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners -- of whom I am the worst.*

3. Understand That People Don't Know What They Are Doing, When They Hurt You

Luke 23:34, NIV – (34) *Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing."*

Romans 12:19, NIV – (19) Do not take revenge, my friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: "It is mine to avenge: I will repay," says the Lord.

2 Thessalonians 1:6, NIV – (6) *God is just: He will pay back trouble to those who trouble you.*

Genesis 20:17, NIV – (17) *Then Abraham prayed to God, and God healed Abimelech, his wife and his slave girls ...*

Luke 6:28, NIV – (28) Bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you.

Romans 12:14, NIV – (14) Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse.

1 Peter 5:6, NIV – (6) *Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time.*

- If you criticize and judge a person long enough, you'll become just like them
- If you bless and pray for them long enough, you'll become just like Christ

DAVID'S MIGHTY MEN

3 – Mighty Over Discontent

David Hibbert - August 20, 2006

REVIEW

1 Samuel 22:1-2, NIV – (1) *David left Gath and escaped to the cave of Adullam. When his brothers and his father's household heard about it, they went down to him there. (2) All those who were in distress or in debt or discontented gathered around him, and he became their leader. About four hundred men were with him.*

DISCONTENTMENT: THE ROOT OF BITTERNESS

- "Discontent"(Hebrew) = "Mar-Nephesh"
- "Mar" (Hebrew) = "bitterness"
- "Nephesh" (Hebrew) = "a breathing creature, a soul, a life"
- "Mar-Nephesh" = a bitter breathing creature", "bitterness of soul"

WHAT IS BITTERNESS?

- Bitterness is our unhealthy human attempt to make ourselves feel better, when we experience a disappointing circumstance, and rather than going to God with our disappointment, and letting Him minister to us, and help us deal with the offence in a godly way, we instead try to comfort ourselves

- What we excuse, will eventually consume us

THE CRITICAL CHOICE: BROKENNESS

- We can choose to be bitter, or we can choose to be better
- And for bitter to become better, the "I" has to be changed
- Bitterness is Satan's substitute for brokenness

Psalm 34:18, NIV – (18) *The LORD is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit.*

- Everyone is a nut, and every nut will eventually be cracked, but the tougher the nut, the harder the crack

CONSEQUENCES OF BITTERNESS

1. Bitterness Deadens Our Senses, Our Ability To Feel

Proverbs 5:4, NIV – “*but in the end she is bitter as gall ...*”

2. Bitterness Kills Our Soul

Job 21:25, NIV – (25) *Another man dies in bitterness of soul, never having enjoyed anything good.*

3. Bitterness Is Contagious, Like A Plague

Hebrews 12:15, NIV – “(15) *See to it that no one misses the grace of God and that no bitter root grows up to cause trouble and defile many.*”

4. Bitter People Attract Each Other Like Magnets

Lamentations 3:5, NIV – “*He has besieged me and surrounded me with bitterness and hardship.*”

Proverbs 22:24-25, NIV – “(24) *Do not make friends with a hot-tempered man, do not associate with one easily angered, (25) or you may learn his ways and get yourself ensnared.*”

5. Bitter People Tend To Wander Through Life

Luke 24:13-14, NIV – (13) *Now that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem. (14) They were talking with each other about everything that had happened.*

- Emmaus was known as a place of hot mineral springs, or “bitter springs”, and so Emmaus is symbolic of a bitter place, that 2 discouraged men were wandering to

6. Bitterness Will Impair Your Vision, And Cause You To See Things Inaccurately

Luke 24:15-16, NIV – (15) *As they talked and discussed these things with each other, Jesus himself came up and walked along with them; (16) but they were kept from recognizing him.*

Jeremiah 17:5-6, NIV – (5) *This is what the LORD says: “Cursed is the one who trusts in man, who depends on flesh for his strength and whose heart turns away from the LORD. (6) He will be like a bush in the wastelands; he will not see prosperity [a good or beneficial thing] when it comes. He will dwell in the parched places of the desert, in a salt land where no one lives.”*

7. Bitterness Affects Your Countenance

Luke 24:17, NIV – *He asked them, “What are you discussing together as you walk along?” They stood still, their faces downcast.*

8. Bitterness Causes Cynicism

Luke 24:18, NIV – *One of them, named Cleopas, asked him, “Are you only a visitor to Jerusalem and do not know the things that have happened there in these days?”*

9. Bitterness Causes Presumption

- People don’t decide to become bitter, they become bitter because of their false or wrong conclusions
- Bitterness is actually a sign that you don’t get it, that you don’t understand

HOW TO DEAL WITH BITTERNESS

1. Refuse To Criticise Others, Or Judge Their Motives

Matthew 7:1-2, NIV – (1) *“Do not judge [condemn/criticise], or you too will be judged [condemned/criticised]. (2) For in the same way you judge [condemn/criticise] others, you will be judged [condemned/criticised], and with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.*

2. Choose To Forgive All Offences

Matthew 18:21, NIV – (21) *Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, “Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother when he sins against me? Up to seven times?” (22) Jesus answered, “I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times.*

Matthew 6:12, NIV – (12) *Forgive us our debts, as [in the same way and to the same degree that] we also have forgiven our debtors.*

Luke 6:37-38, NIV – (37) *Do not judge, and you will not be judged. Do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven. (38) Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.*

- Your ability to excel this life, as a believer, is directly affected by your ability to forgive other people