

BATTLING BITTERNESS

Hebrews 12:14-17

God's Word reveals the causes and cures for bitterness.

I. REASONS FOR BITTERNESS

- Some conditions that cause bitterness

A. MISTREATMENT

1. Esau's Issue - Genesis 27:41-45
 - Jacob had stolen his blessing through deception
2. Joseph's bothered brothers - Genesis 37: 1-20
 - a. They are not favored (v. 3-4)
 - b. They are not impressed (vs. 5-11)
 - c. They are not restrained (vs. 18-20)

B. DISCONTENTMENT

1. With people: Ahab's pouting - I Kings 21:1-4
2. With God: Job's disgust - Job 3 & 10
 - a. God wouldn't let Job die - Job. 3:20-26
 - b. God wouldn't answer nor deliver Job - Job. 10:1-2, 7
 - c. God wouldn't leave Job alone - Job 10:18-20

II. RESOLVING BITTERNESS

- Some cures for overcoming bitterness

A. WITH PEOPLE

1. Interact - Matt. 5:43-44
 - a. Personally: Love them (see also Lev. 19:18)
 - b. Spiritually: Pray for them
2. Yield - I Corinthians 9:3-12
 - Give up the rights you could exercise
3. Engage - Hebrews 12:14-17
 - a. Be aggressive (14)
 - About peace with men and purity with God
 - b. Apply grace (15a)
 - Don't go without it
 - c. Avoid problems (15b-17)
 - Because the buried blossoms and that bitterness contaminates

Over please >

B. WITH GOD

1. Repent - Job. 42:1-6
 - Because knowing who is better than knowing why
2. Worship - Habakkuk 3:16-19
 - a. Though desperate times come ... (16-17)
 - b. We can rejoice and rely on God's provisions (18-19)

CONCLUSION:**We will battle bitterness when we behave according to God's Word**

So, as those who have been chosen of God, holy and beloved, put on a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience; bearing with one another, and forgiving each other, whoever has a complaint against anyone; just as the Lord forgave you, so also should you. - Colossians 3:12-13

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