

“Life’s Too Short ... To Be Bitter”

Genesis 45:5-8 with Romans 12:19-21

Over the course of time, it’s possible for offenses to grow and grudges to develop in our relationships with others. Unforgiveness leads to bitterness, and bitterness eats away at us like a cancer. Today, we uncover to guidelines that help us avoid the trap of bitterness.

1. I Must Accept The Strategy That Prevent Bitterness.

- The providence of God in my life

“...It was to save lives that God sent me ahead of you...But God sent me ahead of you to preserve for you a remnant on earth and to save your lives by a great deliverance.” Genesis 45:5,7

“The LORD gave and the LORD has taken away; may the name of the LORD be praised.” Job 1:21b

- The process God uses in my life

“It was not you who sent me here, but God. He made me father to Pharaoh, lord of his entire household and ruler of all Egypt.” Genesis 45:8

- The priority of forgiveness in my life

“He threw his arms around his brother Benjamin and wept, and Benjamin embraced him, weeping. And he kissed all his brothers and wept over them.” Genesis 45:14,15a

“Jesus said, ‘Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing.’ Luke 23:34a

- The perspective only God has for my life

“You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives.” Genesis 50:20

2. I Must Be Willing To Adopt The Steps That Relieve Bitterness

- The people must be forgiven

“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?’ Jesus answered, ‘I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times.’” Matthew 18:21-22

“For if you forgive men when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive men their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins.” Matthew 6:14,15

- The anger must be forsaken

“In your anger do not sin: Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry... Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.”
Ephesians 4:26,31-32

- The past must be allowed to fade

“Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.” Matthew 11:28

CONCLUSION

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

- Where have I allowed bitterness to influence my life?

PRIMARY RESOURCES USED FOR THIS SERMON INCLUDE:

“Overcoming Lingering Bitterness” by Ray Pritchard

“Three of the Most Important Things I Can Do” by Doug Phillips

“Digging Out the Root of Bitterness” by Alan Carr