



The Curse of Bitterness

Lesson Two • Hebrews 12:14-17

Digging Up the Deadly Root of Bitterness

Stage 1 - **ACKNOWLEDGE** the Characteristics of Bitterness

Stage 2 - **AVOID** the Curse of Bitterness

Esau Is the POSTER BOY for Being a Cursed Root of Bitterness

Hebrews 12:15-17; Genesis 27:41

Esau Is a Classic Example of a Cursed Life Due to Bitterness

1. He traded his spiritual **BIRTHRIGHT** for the temporary pleasure of a bowl of “red stuff.”
Hebrews 12:16; See Genesis 25:19-34

What Is the Way to Your Heart?

The answer reveals what idols we have in our hearts!

2. He lost his spiritual **BLESSING** due to being deceived. *Hebrews 12:17; See Genesis 27:1-41*

Bitterness Is Not the Result of What Others DO to Us!

Bitterness is the result of the choices we make in our own hearts!

3. He became a cursed root of **BITTERNESS**. *Hebrews 12:15; Genesis 27:41*

Like Esau, Bitter People...

1. **SELL** their birthright of being in fellowship with their forgiving Father for the temporary pleasure of being bitter and unforgiving.

Our Birthright Is to Be Forgiven and Be Forgiving!

2. **LOSE** God’s blessings due to being deceived about the state of their own heart.
3. **WASTE** their lives by being a bitter root that spreads deadly fruit.

AVOID the Curse of Bitterness in Ourselves and Others

A Bitter Person Is Under God’s Curse as...

1. A **TROUBLEMAKER** who causes **DIVISION**.

“looking carefully...lest any root of bitterness springing up cause trouble...” Hebrews 12:15

- Bitter people often have a rigid **MINDSET**. *Acts 15:19; Hebrews 12:16; Jude 8; Titus 1:14-16; Romans 1:28-32*
- Bitter people often suffer from severe **TORMENT**. *Luke 6:18; Matthew 18:34-35*

Bitter People Are Troublesome People

They are hard to get along with when it comes to doing things God's way rather their way.

2. A **DEFILER** who spreads **DISOBEDIENCE**.

"See to...that no root of bitterness springing up causes trouble, and by it many be defiled" Hebrews 12:15

Bitterness defiles people and makes them unfit to stand before God. When bitterness is allowed to grow, it has wide-ranging effects. It defiles "many." ~ Leon Morris

Bitter People Are Sinful People

They spread the stain of their sin on all who come into contact with them.

3. An **IMMORAL IDOLATER** who increases **DEFIANCE**.

"See to it...that there be no immoral or godless person like Esau..." Hebrews 12:16

- The curse of immorality's **instant self-satisfaction** ~ *Genesis 25:27-34; 27:30-41*

Bitter People Are Immoral People

They would rather justify and satisfy themselves with a bitter heart rather than please God with a forgiving heart.

- The curse of idolatry's **insincere self-deception** ~ *Deuteronomy 29:18-21*

Bitter People Are Godless People

They would rather be hypocritical and follow their own ways rather than holy and follow God ways.

4. An **UNBELIEVER** who receives **EVERLASTING DAMNATION**.

"See to it...that there be no immoral or godless person like Esau, who sold his own birthright for a single meal. For you know that even afterwards, when he desired to inherit the blessing, he was rejected, for he found no place for repentance, though he sought for it with tears." Hebrews 12:16-17

Bitter People Are Often Unsaved People

Their bitterness reveals their settled unbelief rather than repentance and forgiveness of true believers.

A Serious and Severe Warning for the Bitter Person from Scripture

If You Persist in Refusing to Deal with Your Bitterness, It May Be Evidence of Falling Short of God's Saving Grace and You Will Suffer His Ultimate Curse of Eternal Separation from Him for All Eternity.

"See to it that no one comes short of the grace of God: ... For you know that even afterwards, when he desired to inherit the blessing, he was rejected, for he found no place for repentance, though he sought for it with tears." (vv. 15-17)

Accept the cure from God's Word found in God's Son!

Flee to the cross this morning where the cure of bitterness was paid for once and for all!

If you have a friend or loved one who is a root of bitterness—

pray for them, warn them, encourage them, but above all make sure they do not infect you with their deadly poison.