

DON'T WASTE YOUR LIFE

How to Make Your Life Count

Lesson Three • Hebrews 12:12-17

Dig Up the Root of Bitterness

Esau Is the “Poster Boy” of a Wasted Life in the Book of Hebrews

- He traded his **BIRTHRIGHT** for the temporary pleasure of a bowl of “red stuff.” *Hebrews 12:16; See Genesis 25:19-34*
- He lost his **BLESSING** due to deception. *Hebrews 12:17; See Genesis 27:1-41*
- He became a root of **BITTERNESS**. *Hebrews 12:15; Genesis 27:41*

Like Esau, Bitter People...

- **SELL** the birthright of eternal forgiveness for the temporary pleasure of being right.
- **LOSE** God’s blessings due to being deceived about the state of their own heart.
- **WASTE** their lives by being a bitter root that spreads deadly fruit.

What Does Bitterness Have to Do with Wasting My Life?

It is impossible to risk your life to make others glad in God if you are an unforgiving person.
~ John Piper

If you forgive those who sin against you, your heavenly Father will forgive you. But if you refuse to forgive others, your Father will not forgive your sins. ~ Jesus, Matthew 6:14-15 (NLT)

And in anger his lord turned him over to the prison guards to torture him until he repaid all he owed. So also my heavenly Father will do to you, if each of you does not forgive your brother from your heart. ~ Jesus, Matthew 18:34-35 (NET)

Don't Waste Your Life: Detect the Root of Bitterness

1. Bitterness is a POISON that is extremely **DEADLY**.

Acts 8:20-23; James 3:14-16; Deuteronomy 29:18-19

2. Bitterness is a PROCESS that is incredibly **DECEPTIVE**.

- It is a **HEART** sin that grows unseen and unnoticed.
- It is the result of a **HARD** heart that refuses to repent and see things God’s way. *Deuteronomy 29:19*
- It often requires the **HELP** of others to detect it and dig it up.

3. Bitterness is a PLAGUE that is highly **CONTAGIOUS**.

- It can infect **MANY PEOPLE**. *Hebrews 12:15*
- It can be passed on to **FUTURE GENERATIONS!** *Deuteronomy 29:14-18*

4. Bitterness is a PERSON that is spiritually **CURSED**.

- The root of bitterness is a **person** who *has fallen short of the grace of God* and *is cursed like Esau in the OT*. *Hebrews 12:15-16*
- The root of bitterness is a **person** who *is an idolater* that *will suffer all the curses written in the Law*. *Deuteronomy 29:18-21*

Don't Waste Your Life: Dig Up the Root Before It Spreads Its Deadly Fruit

- ASK GOD'S SPIRIT** to search your heart for any seeds of bitterness that have already taken root there.
- AGREE WITH GOD** that bitterness is a deadly poison, a deceptive process, a contagious plague, and a curse that only He can cure.
- ACCEPT THE FORGIVENESS** that is found only in God’s Son who drank the bitter cup of our sin on the Cross and freely forgives those who repent of their bitterness toward God or others.
- PUT AWAY ALL BITTERNESS** toward all those who have hurt you and **replace** it with the loving forgiveness that God has freely given you in Christ!