

sermon notes



MY SON, EAT HONEY BECAUSE IT IS GOOD, AND THE HONEYCOMB WHICH IS SWEET TO YOUR TASTE SO SHALL THE KNOWLEDGE OF WISDOM BE TO YOUR SOUL; IF YOU HAVE FOUND IT, THERE IS A PROSPECT, AND YOUR HOPE WILL NOT BE CUT OFF.

Proverbs 24:14

INTRODUCTION:

Recently I have been realizing that I can have a rotten attitude after walking through certain situations in my life. Sometimes I realize it on my own, and sometimes someone else has to tell me about it. I don't want to be led by my bad attitudes; I want to live in the transforming grace that Jesus gives me. When I think about it, I hear my self-talk say, "stay sweet, and don't get bitter". That phrase intrigued me. I knew it was a biblical concept, but I wanted to know more about it.

This series is a result of my wanting to know how to stay sweet in a bitter world.

1. Bitter Sweet

We will see that the Bible talks about sweetness as representing something that is healing and wholesome whereas bitterness represents what is poisonous and even deadly when it comes to our feelings and our attitudes.

"DOES A SPRING SEND FORTH FRESH WATER AND BITTER FROM THE SAME OPENING?"

James 3:11 NKJV

"KEEP YOUR HEART WITH ALL DILIGENCE, FOR OUT OF IT SPRING THE ISSUES OF LIFE."

Proverbs 4:23 NKJV

"KEEP AND GUARD YOUR HEART WITH ALL VIGILANCE AND ABOVE ALL THAT YOU GUARD, FOR OUT OF IT FLOW THE SPRINGS OF LIFE."

Proverbs 4:23

2. Bitter Roots

Hebrews 12:12-16

- **Verses 12-13:** Our walk with Christ is a journey, and the journey itself can sometimes be difficult.
- **Verse 14:** Pursue peace (relationships with others) and holiness (relationship with God)
- **Verse 15:** Look out for 3 things:
 - Lest anyone fall short of the grace of God
 - Lest any root of bitterness spring up
 - Lest anyone become like Esau

3. The Journey to Marah (Exodus 15:22-27)

Exodus 15 back story of crossing the Red Sea

- **Tasting bitter waters: experiencing disappointment with God.**

This was the very first "test" ("...and there He tested them..." Exodus 15:25) on the journey out of Egypt. Learning about at Marah will help us turn any bitter situation around from being poisonous (has the intention to kill us and others) to being sweet (producing life for us and others).

- **Taste or Drink from a bitter situation, its our choice**

"THEY ALSO GAVE ME GALL FOR MY FOOD, AND FOR MY THIRST THEY GAVE ME VINEGAR TO DRINK."

Psalms 69:21

THE SOLDIERS GAVE HIM WINE MIXED WITH BITTER GALL, BUT WHEN HE HAD TASTED IT, HE REFUSED TO DRINK IT.

Matthew. 27:34

To think about and discuss:

- Describe a situation in your life that you can identify as a "Marah" in your journey.
- Can you identify what steps Satan tried to get you to question God and his grace in your life?
- Have you ever blamed God for something that has happened to you? (see "What is resentment" below)
- Discuss how you can practically put the tree (cross) into your Marah to keep Satan from poisoning your life

What is resentment?

Resentment is an emotion described as painful bitterness as a result of an expected injustice (perceived or real) done toward us. It is also described as a mixture of disappointment anger and fear.

When experiencing resentment, we re-experience and relive a situation in ways that affect us emotionally, physically, and spiritually in very destructive ways affecting us and those around us. Clinical studies prove that the inability to overcome resentment probably constitutes the single most devastating barrier to repairing a broken intimate connection, family rift, or severed friendship.

This being said, can you see why Satan would want you to develop resentment toward God? If he can relationally separate us from God, the root of bitterness will take over and poison us and those we are in relationship with.