

HOUSE TO H^{HOUSE} HOUSE

This is a resource for you to take the word God gives us in His house to your house!

A **HELPFUL TIP**: RE-watch the sermon online (*available @ facebook.com/journeychurch.family*) by yourself or with others.

I'M DREAMING OF A LIGHT CHRISTMAS: THE WEIGHT OF BITTERNESS?

Sunday, December 15, 2019

In a crowded busy holiday season it's common for people to be weighed down. By family, relationships, finances, regret and failure; just to name a few. This series will help you see the weight in things that God never asked you to carry. His solution is simple: Let go of the baggage and travel light.

HEBREWS 12:14-15 NIV

14 Make every effort to live in peace with everyone and to be holy; without holiness no one will see the Lord. 15 See to it that no one falls short of the grace of God and that no bitter root grows up to cause trouble and defile many.

POWER THOUGHT —> One of the devil's GREATEST tools used to destroy your relationships, poison your heart and ruin your life is **BITTERNESS**.

>>>>BITTERNESS BEGINS WITH OFFENSE<<<<

ECCLESIASTES 7:21 NIV

"Don't take to heart all the things people say to you..."

WHERE AND WHEN HAVE YOU ALLOWED OFFENSE TO GROW INTO BITTERNESS?

POWER THOUGHT —> I **cannot** control what people do, but I **can** control how I respond.

Bitterness is a DANGEROUS ROOT and a POISONOUS FRUIT!

"Bitterness is drinking poison hoping THEY die." - Unknown

1 JOHN 4:20 NLT

If someone says, "I love God," but hates a fellow believer, that person is a liar; for if we don't love people we can see, how can we love God, whom we cannot see?

*In God's economy → loving Him and hating others is **IMPOSSIBLE**.*

EPHESIANS 4:31-32 NIV

Get rid of (*how much?*) all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. 32 (*and then he shifts gears here in saying*) Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.

HOW TO UPROOT BITTERNESS:

1. KILL IT WITH COMPASSION

ROMANS 12:21 NIV

Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

PRACTICAL THOUGHT → COMPASSION OFTEN REQUIRES GOING THE OPPOSITE DIRECTION YOUR FEELINGS WANT TO GO.

*Jesus said it best... **LUKE 6:28 NLT***

Bless those who curse you. Pray for those who hurt you.

2. KILL IT WITH FORGIVENESS

GOD, HOW DO I DO THAT? You forgive each other just as in Christ, God forgave you. You are not being asked to generate or create forgiveness them. GOD'S SIMPLY ASKING FOR YOU TO PASS ALONG TO THEM THE SAME FORGIVENESS **YOU** HAVE ALREADY BEEN GIVEN FROM **HIM**.

JAMES 4:17 NIV

"So whoever knows the right thing to do and fails to do it, for him it is sin."

DEFINITION OF SIN (in the verse above) means to "MISS THE MARK" which is an archery term to describe a missing the target. So often, we justify our bitterness through sin comparison.

SPIRITUAL FACT → All sin needs the blood of Jesus in order to be justified

How do we take baby steps to forgiveness? LOOK AT THEM/THINK OF THEM AND CHOOSE NOT TO BE BITTER. TELL YOURSELF → "**I don't know what I'm gonna do tomorrow or how I'm gonna feel tomorrow, but right now, in this moment, I choose to release them, they owe me nothing.**"

PRAY: Father, today I choose to uproot bitterness from my life. I'm deeply aware of what's been done to me. I ask you to give me, by your Spirit, the ability, strength and courage to not harbor and hold bitterness against _____, I instead release _____ of their debt to me, declaring weight-lifting freedom in my life in sharing the forgiveness you have given me with them. In Jesus' Name **AMEN**.