

MOVING BEYOND THE PAST

Lesson 8: Bitter-Root Judgment and Expectancy

Introduction: Bitter roots are our sinful reactions and our condemning judgments of people, and our refusal and inability to forgive. They are our reaction/response in our spirit to what is done to us. We then develop an expectancy that others will do the same to us, a self-fulfilling prophecy.

- I. What are Bitter-Root Judgments
 - A. As a child (could be as an adult too), when we experienced or observed something we didn't like, we often made judgements about the person we connected to that event.
 - B. Bitter-Root Judgments are normally made regarding our parents or with other primary persons in the early stages of our life.
 - C. When there is a bitter-root judgment there is an inability or refusal to forgive someone.
 - D. They are the operations of the unchangeable Laws of God, which cause us to reap in kind what we have sown. (*Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, this he will also reap.* Galatians 6:7)
 - E. Bitter-root judgments are not hurtful or terrible things that happen to us, nor are they the sins of those who have wronged us. They are our sinful responses to those things that have happened to us, planted deeply within us due to our refusal or inability to forgive.
 - F. Just as a tiny mustard seed grows to produce a large tree, so a seed of judgment sown increases the longer it remains unrecognized and unrepented of.
- II. What are Bitter-Root Expectancies?
 - A. Bitter root expectancy is a psychological practice in our lives. It is a habit of a self-fulfilling prophecy, by which we "push" people to fulfill our picture of the way things will go.
 - B. We develop an expectancy that others will behave the same way as the person we judged.
 - C. Because of our expectancy, those we become close to will at times unconsciously conform to that expectancy, especially if you represent a bitter-root judgment they have. (*Do not judge lest you be judged yourselves. For in the way you judge, you*

will be judged; and by your standard of measure, it shall be measured to you.
Matt. 7: 1-2)

- III. Who is Responsible for Bitter-Root Judgments?
- A. Our parents, or other significant person in our life, or anyone else that may have harmed us are totally responsible for their actions.
 - B. We are responsible for our reactions and responses to the harm done to us. We are specifically responsible for our sinful reactions and responses.
 - C. We have to acknowledge that at times we have made judgments that were not based upon reality, we were not harmed by another person.
- IV. Bible Warnings Regarding Bitter-Root Judgment and Expectancy
- A. *See to it that no one comes short of the grace of God; that no root of bitterness springing up causes trouble, and by it many are defiled.* Heb. 12: 15
 - B. *Honor your father and your mother, as the Lord your God has commanded you, so that you may live long and that it may go well with you in the land the Lord your God is giving you.* Deut. 5:16
 - C. *You, therefore, have no excuse, you who pass judgment on someone else, for at whatever point you judge the other, you are condemning yourself, because you who pass judgment do the same things.* Romans 2:1
 - D. *Do not judge and you will not be judged. Do not condemn and you will not be condemned. Forgive and you will be forgiven. Give and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.* Luke 6:37-38
- V. Deliverance from Bitter-Root Judgment and Expectancy
- A. Must recognize that there are bitter roots in our life and how they have affected us and others around us.
Luke 6:43
“For there is no good tree which produces bad fruit, nor, on the other hand, a bad tree which produces good fruit.”

Matthew 7:17-20
17 "So every good tree bears good fruit, but the bad

tree bears bad fruit.

18 "A good tree cannot produce bad fruit, nor can a bad tree produce good fruit.

19 "Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

20 "So then, you will know them by their fruits.

- B. We have to choose to repent, by determining to stop patterns by hauling judgments and expectations to the cross in prayer. The prayers must be specific, focused, Spirit-led prayers of forgiveness.
- C. A person must speak forgiveness at the age of the judgment. Praying out loud his/her forgiveness for mom or dad for judging, resentment, hating. Forgive me for perpetuating those attitudes in my present relationships.
- D. Have others pray over you. ("If you forgive the sins of any, their sins have been forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they have been retained." John 20:23)
- E. Prayers of Death-Pray that the bitter-root judgments and expectancies in your life will die.

Luke 9:23-25

23 And He was saying to them all, "If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross daily and follow Me.

24 "For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake, he is the one who will save it.

25 "For what is a man profited if he gains the whole world, and loses or forfeits himself?

Galatians 5:24

Now those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.

- F. Prayers of Resurrection-Pray to become a new creation in all areas of our life.
2 Corinthians 5:17-Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come.

"Lord reverse the old pattern and cause its glorious opposite to happen; restore to new life." This imparts a new expectancy.

Prayer for Release of Bitter-Root Judgment and Expectancy

Dear Heavenly Father: In the Name of Jesus, I repent for the sin of judging Your creation. I have judged and condemned others although I am not a righteous judge, and have no right to judge anyone. Jesus committed no sin, and was righteous, but He judged no one. Jesus entrusted Himself to You, the One who judges righteously. So I now entrust myself to You.

Please forgive me for this sin of judging others and condemning others. I now bless those who I have judged. I bless those I have accused. I bless those who hate me and have cursed me. I break the power of the spiritual law of sowing and reaping.

I ask You to bless them and give them what they need.

I now intend to sow blessings into my life by blessing those people who have spitefully used me, in Jesus's Name.

Thank You, Lord, for forgiving me and helping me to forgive others.
(<http://www.boblucyministries.org/pdf/BitterRootJudgment.pdf>)