

It was a dark and stormy night...

The Darkness of Bitterness

Hebrews 12:12-15

The descent into bitterness

The deception of bitterness

1. That bitterness is effective
2. That bitterness is harmless

The thing about roots...

- A. They are beneath the surface and hidden
- B. They have gripping power
- C. They creep and grow
- D. They poison the plan
- E. They kill the fruit.

The decision to live bitter free

1. We are told to do so.
2. We are told why to do so.
3. We are told how to do so.

storylines prompt:

Have you ever tried to write a parable? Write a story about a garden that is destroyed by bitterness. Not into fiction? Recount a time in life when you practiced forgiveness and write about how it affected you.



resource guide

First Five / Final Five:

⇒ Take the first five minutes of each day to READ God's Word, and the final five minutes of your day to REFLECT on God's Work in your life.

The Big Idea:

- In your own words, how would you summarize the main idea of the message?

From the Message:

- Which part of the bitterness process / spiral of bitterness is of most danger to you?
- When have you experienced the “bump and spill” principle—either with you as the bumper or the bumped?
- What are some practical ways that we can live peacefully? How does it make life better?

From the Passage:

- The instruction in verse 13 to “make level paths” may come from Proverbs 4:26. The idea is to remove things from your life that might trip you up. But the writer of Hebrews is thinking collectively, and how we can help those among us who might be easily hurt or tripped up. How can we push back against bitterness collectively?

Think it through / Talk it over:

- What are some ways that bitterness can creep into our lives?
- How easily offended, annoyed, irritated or even angered are you? Why? Do you think this happens as a result of bitterness, or do you think it leads to bitterness?
- When have you experienced the “rootedness” of bitterness?
- What are some situations in life where the need for grace might arise? How can you keep from “falling short”?

Take a Step:

⇒ Truth transforms us only as we take action. What is that one step you need to take?