

NUMBERS

Walking with God Through the Wilderness

Lessons from the Past for Life in the Present

Numbers 20 - Part II



Put off Anger and Bitterness

Ephesians 4:26,

Be ye angry, and sin not: let not the sun go down upon your wrath:

Unresolved Anger Issues and Hurts will lead to Bitterness and Resentment.

“Bitterness is you drinking the poison and waiting for the person who hurt you to die.”

The key is to learn how to resolve the issues/hurts.

Ephesians 4:31,

Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour,
and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice:

I. THE RECOGNITION OF ANGER AND BITTERNESS

Hebrews 12:14-16,

Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord: ¹⁵ Looking diligently lest any man fail of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up trouble you, and thereby many be defiled; ¹⁶ Lest there be any fornicator, or profane person, as Esau, who for one morsel of meat sold his birthright.



The Recognition of Bitterness - "Looking Diligently"

1. **ANGER:** Emotionally upset, not on an even keel, imbalanced
2. **MOODY:** easily irritated, up and down, frustrated - the guessing game
3. **CONTROLLING:** likes to run the show, does not work well with others, their way or the high way
4. **DISCONTENTED:** Never happy, something always has to be fixed, a lack of joy, rehearsing the offense
5. **DEMANDING:** high expectations, disappointed all the time, hurt, demands justice, easily offended

The MATURE Believer is not Easily Offended!

Psalm 119:165,

Great peace have they which love thy law:

AND NOTHING SHALL OFFEND THEM.

The immature person is easily offended.

The proud person is easily offended.

The selfish person is easily offended.



The Recognition of Bitterness - "Looking Diligently"

6. JUDGMENTAL SPIRIT: the person acts superior to others, is entitled, critical, puts everyone down, hopes God will judge offender
7. NURSE HURT FEELINGS: Feels overlooked, unthanked, not appreciated or respected, repeats the offenses, unwilling to forgive
8. FEELS ENTITLED: People owe them something, they must do something for them, very conditional living
9. SARCASTIC SPEECH: the person oozes with crass, cutting, critical comments, is barbed (Romans 3:14)
10. A LOVE PROBLEM

Moses is Showing Signs of Anger and Bitterness

Numbers 20:10,

And Moses and Aaron gathered the congregation together before the rock, and he said unto them, Hear now, ye rebels; must we fetch you water out of this rock? ¹¹ And Moses lifted up his hand, and with his rod he smote the rock twice: and the water came out abundantly, and the congregation drank, and their beasts also.



II. THE REASONS FOR ANGER AND BITTERNESS

- #1 - Lack of Physical Strength - exhausted, "hangry" - hormones
- #2 - Lack of Emotional Strength - heart sick - "Miriam died"
- #3 - Lack of Some Legitimate Need - "no water"
- #4 - Lack of Understanding/Support - "chode with Moses"
- #5 - Lack of Courage - Fear of man
- #6 - Lack of Patience - Short fuse
- #7 - Lack of Mercy, Grace and Love
- #8 - Lack of Humility
- #9 - Lack of Obedience - "he smote the rock twice"
- #10 - Lack of Faith/Trust - "because ye believed me not"

THE REASONS FOR BITTERNESS

Hebrews 12:14-16,

Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord: ¹⁵ Looking diligently lest any man fail of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up trouble you, and thereby many be defiled; ¹⁶ Lest there be any fornicator, or profane person, as Esau, who for one morsel of meat sold his birthright.



You have been Hurt By Someone: A failure in holiness!

Illustrations: "Follow peace with all men, and holiness"

1. Biological Parents Abandon Child
2. Child Abuse - incest, rape
3. Child Rearing/Discipline Inconsistencies
4. Break ups and Broken Engagements
5. Adultery
6. Divorce
7. Financial Problems/Failures/Disappointments
8. Betrayals, Violations of Trust, lack of justice/fairness
9. etc. etc. etc.

“Follow Peace” and “Live Peaceably” - “With all men”

Hebrews 12:14,
Follow peace with all men, and holiness . . .

Romans 12:18 ,
If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men.

Colossians 3:19,
Husbands, love your wives, and be not bitter against them.

Moses failed in **NOT** following peace and holiness!

Numbers 20:12-13,

And the **LORD** spake unto Moses and Aaron, Because ye believed me not, to sanctify me in the eyes of the children of Israel, therefore ye shall not bring this congregation into the land which I have given them. ¹³ This is the water of Meribah; because the children of Israel strove with the **LORD**, and he was sanctified in them.



III. THE RESULTS OF UNCHECKED ANGER

1. It is Demanding
2. It Destroys Relationships - 20:2-5
3. It Distorts Reality
4. It Degrades Others - "Hear now, Ye Rebels"
5. It Defeats God's People - 20:14-21
6. It is Discouraging to People - 21:
7. It is Disqualifying for office holders
8. It is Divorce Bound
9. It Defiles Others - It is contagious - Aaron Complicit
10. It is Deadly - 20:22-29 - POTENTIALLY DAMNING

Mount Hor - Aaron's Tomb

Mount Hor
Aaron's Tomb

הור ההר
קבר אהרן



Mount Hor - Aaron is Buried at the Summit



The Results of Bitterness

Hebrews 12:14-16,

Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord: ¹⁵ Looking diligently lest any man fail of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up trouble you, and thereby many be defiled; ¹⁶ Lest there be any fornicator, or profane person, as Esau, who for one morsel of meat sold his birthright.



The Results of Bitterness

- #1 It Destroys Fellowship with God - "trouble you"
- #2 It Defies Correction (Hebrews 12:4-13)
- #3 Devil given a Base to Conduct his Operations (Ephesians 4:27)
- #4 It Defeats the Grace of God - "lest any man fail of the grace of God"
- #5 It Defiles Others potentially - "and thereby many be defiled"
- #6 It Develops into Immorality - "lest there be any fornicator"
- #7 It Deteriorates One's Spiritual Values Leading to Materialism -
"or profane person, as Esau, who for one morsel of meat
sold his birthright."

IV. THE REMEDY FOR ANGER AND BITTERNESS

1. HUMBLE YOURSELF - God Gives Grace to the Humble
2. Recognize that you Have an Anger/Bitterness Problem and CONFESS IT to God and Others
3. GLORY IN THE CROSS OF CHRIST and His Forgiveness
4. FORGIVE OTHERS and SEEK THE FORGIVENESS of Others
5. CONSIDER JESUS and HIS EXAMPLE FOR LIFE
6. TRUST GOD to Meet all Your Needs
7. SATURATE YOUR MIND AND HEART with the Word of God
8. PRAY without Ceasing
9. PUT OFF Anger and Bitterness
10. PUT ON Love and Ministry for God and Others

THE REMEDY

#1 HUMBLE YOURSELF - You are failing of the grace of God - You need grace! The pathway for receiving grace is humility!

James 4:6, But he giveth more grace. Wherefore he saith, God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble.

1 Peter 5:5, Likewise, ye younger, submit yourselves unto the elder. Yea, all of you be subject one to another, and be clothed with humility: for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble.

THE REMEDY

#2 RECOGNIZE THAT YOU HAVE AN ANGER AND BITTERNESS PROBLEM AND CONFESS IT TO GOD AND TO OTHERS

Proverbs 14:10, The heart knoweth its own bitterness.

Ruth 1:20, And she said unto them, Call me not Naomi, call me Mara: for the Almighty hath dealt very bitterly with me.

James 5:16, Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.

THE REMEDY - THE CROSS

#3 GLORY IN THE CROSS OF JESUS AND HIS FORGIVENESS

Exodus 15:23-25, And when they came to Marah, they could not drink of the waters of Marah, for they were bitter: therefore the name of it was called Marah.
²⁴ And the people murmured against Moses, saying, What shall we drink? ²⁵
And he cried unto the LORD; and the LORD shewed him a tree, which when he had cast into the waters, the waters were made sweet:
there he made for them a statute and an ordinance, and there he proved them,

THE REMEDY - THE CROSS

Numbers 21:7-8,

Therefore the people came to Moses, and said, We have sinned, for we have spoken against the LORD, and against thee; pray unto the LORD, that he take away the serpents from us. And Moses prayed for the people.
8 And the LORD said unto Moses, Make thee a fiery serpent, and set it upon a pole: and it shall come to pass, that every one that is bitten, when he looketh upon it, shall live.



THE REMEDY

#4 FORGIVE OTHERS AND SEEK THE FORGIVENESS OF ANYONE YOU HAVE SINNED AGAINST

Matthew 5:23-24, Therefore if thou bring thy gift to the altar, and there rememberest that thy brother hath ought against thee; ²⁴ Leave there thy gift before the altar, and go thy way; first be reconciled to thy brother, and then come and offer thy gift.

Mark 11:25, And when ye stand praying, forgive, if ye have ought against any: that your Father also which is in heaven may forgive you your trespasses.

THE REMEDY

#5 CONSIDER JESUS AND FOLLOW HIS EXAMPLE FOR LIVING

Hebrews 12:2-3, Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God. ³ For consider him that endured such contradiction of sinners against himself, lest ye be wearied and faint in your minds.

Isaiah 26:3, Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee.

THE REMEDY-FOLLOW CHRIST'S EXAMPLE

1 Peter 2:21-23,

For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps: ²² Who did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth: ²³ Who, when he was reviled, reviled not again; when he suffered, he threatened not; but committed himself to him that judgeth righteously:



THE REMEDY

#6 TRUST GOD TO MEET ALL OF YOUR NEEDS

Numbers 20:12, And the LORD spake unto Moses and Aaron, Because ye believed me not, to sanctify me in the eyes of the children of Israel, therefore ye shall not bring this congregation into the land which I have given them.

Philippians 4:19, But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.

THE REMEDY

#7 SATURATE YOUR MIND & HEART WITH THE WORD OF GOD

Joshua 1:8, This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success.

Psalms 119:11, Thy word have I hid (i.e. stored up, treasured) in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee.

THE REMEDY

#8 PRAY WITHOUT CEASING - 1 Thessalonians 5:17

2 Corinthians 10:5, Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ;

Philippians 4:6, Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. ⁷ And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

THE REMEDY

#9 PUT OFF ANGER AND BITTERNESS

Ephesians 4:31, Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice: ³² And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.

Colossians 3:8, But now ye also put off all these; anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy communication out of your mouth.

THE REMEDY

#10 PUT ON LOVE/MINISTRY FOR GOD AND OTHERS

2 Corinthians 1:3-4, Blessed be God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies, and the God of all comfort; ⁴ Who comforteth us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort them which are in any trouble, by the comfort wherewith we ourselves are comforted of God.

Psalms 100:2, Serve the LORD with gladness: come before his presence with singing.

Prayer to Receive Salvation from the Lord

Dear God,

I know that I am sinner and that the wages of sin is death. I humbly come to the cross and ask for your blood to cleanse me from all my sin. I believe your Son was raised from the dead. I ask you Lord to give me everlasting life.

Amen.

