

The Bitterness Of Shimei

2 Samuel 16:5-13

Bitterness Defined:

- Bitterness – Resentment, refusing reconciliation ... *“to have bitter resentment or hatred toward someone else – ‘to be embittered, to have bitter hate.’”* (from *Greek-English Lexicon Based on Semantic Domain*)
- *“Bitterness (pikria) is a spirit of resentment. It refuses reconciliation and will do nothing to initiate a restoration of good relationships.”* (Colly Caldwell, Truth Commentaries)

Bitterness – Generally Does Not Exist Alone

- | | | |
|--|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Selfishness. • Jealousy. • Anger. • Murder. | } | <p>Examples:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Simon. Acts 8 • Cain. Genesis 4 • Naaman. 2 Kings 5 |
|--|---|--|

Simon in Acts 8. *“the gall of bitterness.”*

The word gall (*cholē*) was used to denote the bile (a fluid secreted by the liver) and sometimes other bitter things. Gall of bitterness – that is, gall characterized by bitterness, bitter gall – was an expression used to mean “extreme wickedness” (Thayer 509). Simon was also in the bond of iniquity – that is, in the bondage of sin. Though Simon had once been forgiven of his sins, he was once again a servant of sin. Thus he would remain until he repented and prayed for forgiveness. (Truth Commentaries.)

Causes Of Bitterness

- **Feeling of entitlement.**
 - Not everyone gets his way. cf. James 3:13-16
 - Results in *“Confusion and every vile (evil) thing.”*
 - Real or imagined offence.
- **Feeling of superiority.** The problems that it causes in churches and relations between brethren in general are many. (cf. Galatians 5:15)

The Bitterness of Shimei

Based on false premises. 2 Samuel 16:7-8

- David was bearing his guilt. cf. Matthew 27:25; Acts 5:28
- David had nothing to do with Saul’s death. 1 Samuel 24:1-22; 26:1-25; 2 Samuel 4:1-12; 9:1-13
- True today. cf. Matthew 18:21-35
- Bitterness is sinful. Ephesians 4:31-32

The Bitterness of Shimei

Nurtured for years!

(Saul had been dead for about 20 years.)

- Bitter words arise from bitter hearts! cf. Psalms 10:7 quoted in Romans 3:14
- Instead of filling himself with worthy thoughts he has utterly polluted himself with sinful ones! (Philippians 4:8).
- ALL bitterness is to be *“put away,”* not nurtured (Ephesians 4:31).

The Bitterness of Shimei

Rejoiced at another's misfortune.

- David and all the people with him were weeping as they fled from Absalom's forces (2 Samuel 15:30).
- *Proverbs 24:7, "Rejoice not when thine enemy falleth, And let not thy heart be glad when he is overthrown"*
- The Christian's responsibilities to brethren who suffer (Romans 12:9ff; 2 Timothy 2:24).

The Bitterness of Shimei

Sets a terrible example.

- What Shimei did was criminal: high treason and blasphemy and he might have justly suffered the penalty of the Law. Exodus 22:28; 2 Samuel 19:21; 1 Kings 21:13
- The results of years of private seething ferments and, finally, when a convenient excuse is found, boils over.

The Bitterness of Shimei

Sets a terrible example.

- The bitter person and his enemy are not the only ones affected, but rather *"many be defiled"* (Hebrews 12:14-15)
- *"Root of bitterness" rhiza pikrias, makes use of the language of Deuteronomy 29:18, "lest there should be among you a root that beareth gall and wormwood."*
- **Note Achan's sin.** Joshua 7:25-26

Conclusion:

- Shimei would later ask forgiveness of his sin against David (2 Samuel 19:16-23).
- *Colossians 3:19, "Husbands, love your wives, and be not bitter against them."*
- Pray to God that he will forgive you this sin (Acts 8:22).