

## Lesson 16: The Lost Sheep, Lost Coin and The Lost Son and The Elder Brother

Luke 15:1-32  
September 22, 2021

### The Sin Of Bitterness – Luke 15

Shimei 2 Samuel 16:5-13  
Bitterness Defined:

- “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.”  
(C.G. Caldwell, *Ephesians*, Truth Commentaries, page 232)

### Bitterness – Generally Does Not Exist Alone

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Selfishness</li> <li>• Jealousy</li> <li>• Anger</li> <li>• Murder</li> </ul>	}	<p>Examples:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Simon – Acts 8</li> <li>• Cain – Genesis 4</li> <li>• Naaman – 2 Kings 5</li> <li>• Elder Brother – Luke 15</li> </ul>
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Simon in Acts 8. “**the gall of bitterness.**”  
 “The word **gall** (*chole*) 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.” (Johnny Stringer, *Acts*, Truth Commentaries, page 177.)

### Causes Of Bitterness

- **Feeling of entitlement.**
  - Not everyone gets his way. cf. James 3:13-16
  - Results in “*Confusion and every vile (evil) deed.*”
  - 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)

**How was this true of the “elder brother” and the Pharisees and Scribes?**

### 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

**How was this true of the “elder brother” and the Pharisees and Scribes?**

### 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 had utterly polluted himself with sinful ones!  
(Philippians 4:8)
- ALL Bitterness is to be “*put away,*” not nurtured  
(Ephesians 4:31).

**How was this true of the “elder brother” and the Pharisees and Scribes?**

### **The Bitterness of Shimei**

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#### **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).

**How was this true of the "elder brother" and the Pharisees and Scribes?**

### **The Bitterness of Shimei**

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#### **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.

**How was this true of the "elder brother" and the Pharisees and Scribes?**

### **The Bitterness of Shimei**

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#### **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)
  - **Note Achan's sin.** Joshua 7:25-26
- "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.*"

**How was this true of the "elder brother" and the Pharisees and Scribes?**