

TRAVEL LIGHT—3 LETTING GO OF BITTERNESS

Series called TRAVEL LIGHT

World is not home—Letting Go Stuff, Distractions, Control—Intro script.

¹⁴ Make every effort to live in peace with everyone and to be holy... ¹⁵ See to it that no one falls short of the grace of God and that no bitter root grows up to cause trouble and defile many. Heb 12:14-15

(Some people take more effort) (Letting go bitter)

Convinced one of spiritual enemy's greatest tools destroy relationships and to poison hearts—Bible calls—Root of Bitterness.

- God wants you to love—Enemy wants to kill love.
- God wants you to grow intimacy—Enemy destroy intimacy.
- God wants you trust—Enemy wants to steal trust leave bitter.

Enemy everything: Plant a seed of offense that creates a root of bitterness.

- Small—Follow someone Insta—Always like, Comment—Unfollow.
- Ignore your texts—Saw the bubbles.
- Christmas meal—Never bring food—Tupper wear.

Lie to you—Deceive you—Talk bad about you.

Relative always critical (Parenting, Spend money, Faith/Church).

Takes advantage of you—Misleads you—Betrays you. (Seed/Root↑)

- **You can't control what people do, but you can control how you respond.**

Intro Your LifeChurch Campus Pastor

Introduce self—Maybe show Christmas photo of family if you have one.

I'm so glad we are talking about this important subject before Christmas.
You' probably noticed the holidays tend to magnify emotions.

When times are good—Christmas makes things feel even better.
But when there's: Family tension—Relational hurts—Dissapts—magnify.
The hard or lonely or broken times often seem more painful.

When you think about it, in the next week or so

- Many of you will have the God-given opportunity to share his love with some of the most important people in your life.
- And you can be sure—just like Pastor Craig said, “Your enemy will likely try plant seeds of offense that create roots of bitterness.”

Remember: You can't control what people do,
But you can control how you respond.

THE PROBLEM WITH BITTERNESS (2 probs)

- **BITTERNESS HAS A DANGEROUS ROOT.**

¹⁵ *See to it that... no bitter root grows up to cause trouble... Heb. 12:15*

What do we know about the root of bitterness?

Roots grow underground.

In other words—Bitterness is an underground job—beneath surface.

No one sees the root growing.

In fact, you may have experienced a hurt, a disappointment, an offense...
You may not even know that an offense has taken root.

Tell 3 short stories—Giving you 4 places to choose from.

Story Option #1—Choose wisely.

Your pastor doesn't preach truth—Road rage.

Transition: When you think about it, according to 1 Cor 13
Love keeps no records of wrongs.

But bitterness keeps detailed records—Right?

He hurt me—She misled me—He lied to me—She let me down.

You know the problem. Longer you allow root to live.
The more it spreads... The harder it is to kill.

Bitterness has a dangerous root. And secondly...

• **BITTERNESS PRODUCES A POISONOUS FRUIT.**

¹⁵ See to... that no bitter root grows up to cause trouble and defile many.
Heb 12:15

Bitterness is not just a root—It's a root that produces bad fruit.

You've seen it all around you...

- A bitter person can poison a LG.
 - A bitter person can make workplace miserable.
 - A bitter person can divide a family.
-

Some of you are probably thinking—I hope so-n-so is listening!
They need this message.

Before you relax and point the finger
Remember—Bitterness one of the most difficult sins see in the mirror.

Why? Because when you are bitter—you feel justified in how you feel.
I'm only angry because of what THEY did!

If we aren't careful, some of us will...

We will celebrate the love of Christ—Hating someone in our hearts.
Receive God's grace—But without it from those around us.

Take moment to ask yourself honestly—Do you have a root of bitterness?
Are you holding a grudge? Carrying a hurt? Nursing an offense?

Brownsoser at work.	Sick and tired of being criticized.
Boss doesn't appreciate you.	Mad at yourself.
Friend takes you for granted.	Disappointed or angry at God.

Story Option #2

HOW DO YOU KILL THE ROOT OF BITTERNESS?

³¹ Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. ³² Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you. Eph 4:31-32

- **KILL BITTERNESS WITH COMPASSION.**

Paul was giving direct teaching to the believers in Ephesus...

³² Be kind and compassionate to one another... Eph. 4:32

Paul taught a similar principal in Romans 12:21 when he said...

²¹ *Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.* Romans 12:21

Can't control what someone else does—Can control how you respond.

Option for STORY #3 here—Stealing car—Giving car

If I'm going to make a mistake about others
Always err on the side of believing the best!

Jesus said it best... He said...

²⁸ *Bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you.* Luke 6:28

One of best ways to show compassion
is to pray for someone who hurt you.

I love what Pastor Craig said years ago...

Your prayer for others may or may not change them
But it will always change you.

Kill bitterness with compassion (and)

- **KILL BITTERNESS WITH FORGIVENESS.**

Pause and acknowledge... This is where it can get tense.

You. Don't. Have. Any. Idea. What. They. Did. To. Me.

How do I forgive what seems unforgiveable? Paul tells us... Eph 4

³¹ Get rid of all bitterness... ³² Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you. Eph 4:31a-32

How do you forgive? You forgive just like Jesus forgave you.

(And) How did Jesus forgive you?

He forgave u: Freely! Generously. Absolutely. Entirely. Unconditionally.

Story #4—Doesn't have to be yours.

Do not let a root of bitterness grow up and hurt you and hurt others.

Broken glass illustration—Let it go

Relive it—Rehearse it—Or you can—Release it.

Someone said

To forgive is to set a prisoner free and discover the prisoner was you.

¹⁸ If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone.

Romans 12:18

Can't control what others do—Can control how you respond.

Let's go back to PC for prayer...