

Pastor's Weekly Devotional- February 4, 2016

“Beyond Bitterness and Betrayal”

As we enter in this Lenten Season, we are reminded of Judas' Betrayal. Unfortunately, being hurt, abused and betrayed are very common, not only among friends, at home, or in the workplace, but even in the church. Tragically, this can result in malice, hatred, bitterness and unforgiveness.

Unforgiveness is deadly since it leads to bitterness. If bitterness takes root in a heart, it will bear dangerous fruit which will affect other relationships. The first aid protocol for wound care is to deal with it quickly: clean it out, put ointment on it, and bandage it so that it can heal. If a wound doesn't heal, it spreads infection throughout the body. Forgiving others who have hurt you is the only way you will be healed from the wounds of betrayal and reclaim your joy. Incidentally, everyone I know who has an unforgiving spirit, that “smirk look” is always lurking on their faces.

Here are two things which will prevent true inner healing:

One, Isolation. Unforgiving people go through life with a big wall around themselves, not allowing anyone to get close to them so they won't be hurt again. Jesus was denied by Peter but Jesus went looking for Peter after His resurrection to reconnect with him. Ask yourself: “Am I better than Jesus?”

Two, A Hardened Heart. When a heart is hard, the original feelings of hurt will turn into debilitating, crippling, life-draining, spirit-weakening anger. A hardened heart is not willing to “let go” and “let God” have His way. It chooses not to forget. But what if God didn't let go of our sins? What if He chooses not to forget? Ask yourself: “Am I better than God?”

Bitterness and unforgiveness, they do not make one better but bitter. The scripture warns against “a root of bitterness springing up causing trouble” (Hebrews 12:14, 15). The problem with a root is that it has the capacity to bear fruit on its own. “Bitter people” will always see the faults of others. They never have anything good to say. They are judgmental and oftentimes think of themselves as better than others.

But let's reason together. Do you think God can heal your heart? Ask Jesus about His hurts! Do you think you are the only person who has ever been hurt? Your answers will determine whether you will remain a bitter person or become a better person.

Have a blessed week.
Pastor Sewdin