



Lesson #4: Bitterness (Ahithophel)

The Bible talks about a “_____ of _____” (Heb. 12:15). It is called a root because it begins hidden with the soil of the heart. From there, its roots will entwine themselves around your heart and mind, until they choke the life out of you emotionally and spiritually.

In our text today, we are presented with a man who was in the strangle hold of a massive “root of bitterness.” This root was buried for years under the mask of high achievements and great positions. He was normal under most all circumstances. He seemed to be friendly, very bright, and was a personal friend of King David’s. But under it all he was holding a bitter grudge. A case study of the life of _____ makes it clear that bitterness can come to any person no matter their family heritage, political standing, or close friendships.

BITTERNESS CAN COME TO THE _____

As you trace the Ahithophel’s name through the Old Testament you will find that it is constantly associated with _____.

A. Ahithophel was distinguished as a _____ man

One of the first accounts we have of Ahithophel (2 Samuel 15:12) it appears that he is engaged in the act of _____. His reputation was that of a man of good, godly counsel. His counsel “*was as if a man had inquired at the _____ of _____*” (2 Samuel 16:23).

B. Ahithophel was distinguished as a _____ man

Ahithophel was one of the few men that David trusted for advice and direction (2 Samuel 15:12). Great leaders always surround themselves with good counselor’s and David was no exception. Apparently, David viewed Ahithophel in such high regard that he actually made him his own personal _____.

BITTERNESS CAN COME TO THE _____

As we look closer at the life of Ahithophel we see that there was something terrible that happened that all had to do with his _____.

A. The _____ that pierced his heart

In 2 Samuel 12:34 we read that Ahithophel’s son’s name was _____. Make a mental note of that when you read 2 Samuel 11:3, “*And David sent and enquired after the woman. And one said, Is not this _____, the daughter of Eliam, the wife of Uriah the Hittite?*”

B. The _____ that polluted his heart

It would appear, from the events that followed, that Ahithophel blamed _____ for what happened. Ahithophel was a ticking time bomb. He refused to let go.

BITTERNESS CAN COME TO THE _____

The behavior of Ahithophel literally destroyed his life.

A. Bitterness will dictate your _____

_____ had forced his father from the throne and into hiding. When he seeks council from Ahithophel, Ahithophel tells him to commit adultery with his father’s concubines (2 Samuel 6:20, 21). It’s like Ahithophel is thinking, “David, I will see to it that you reap what you have sown.”

B. Bitterness will dominate your _____

The bitterness in his heart so dominated Ahithophel that he thought of only one thing and that was getting even. In 2 Samuel 17:1,2 he volunteered to track down David for Absalom and humiliate David in the presence of the people.

C. Bitterness will _____ you

The end of Ahithophel was bitter. Absalom chose to reject Ahithophel’s counsel. How did Ahithophel respond to his rejected counsel? He _____ himself. (2 Samuel 17:23)

CONCLUDING THOUGHTS

Corrie Ten Boom likens _____ to letting go of a _____. I wonder if there is a rope you need to let go of? If you will not let go of the rope, then just remember Ahithophel, the grandfather that could not forgive.

Bitterness destroyed him and it will destroy you too.