

THE SATANIC ATTACK OF BITTERNESS

Scripture Reading:

James 3:7-16

INTRODUCTION

- **Ephesians 6:16** mentions “...all the fiery darts of the wicked one...” These thought-darts can come in multiples during Satan’s attack upon the believer’s mind.

INTRODUCTION

- Demonstration of Satanic attack upon the mind of Peter in Matthew 16:20-23:
 - *Jesus' change of program (vs. 20-21)*
 - *Peter's response to Jesus, due to affect of Satanic influence (vs. 22-23)*
 - **Peter's disappointment**
 - *expected Kingdom of the Heavens to be set up*
 - **Peter's discouragement**
 - *What will we do now?!?*
 - *Why do you want to change plans?!?*
 - **Peter's independence from God**
 - *“Lord, this shall not be unto thee...”*

Mental Bitterness Defined and Demonstrated

■ Definition

- *(Mental) bitterness is the strong mental distaste that may result from disappointment, discouragement, (and disagreement).*

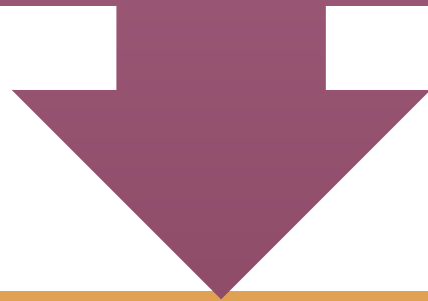
■ Demonstrated

- *Job 7:11, 10:1*
- *Acts 8:5-24 (especially vs 23)*

Two ways of thinking

Logically,
rationally with
your human spirit
(cf Jn 3:6)

Emotionally,
with your
human soul



Job's soul responded with
bitterness, resulting in
“complaining”

Job 7:11 - (human) “spirit” used 8x;
“soul” used 16x

**Bitterness
Affects
the Soul**

Bitterness Mentioned in the NT

Specific Conflict: husbands toward their wives

- Col 3:19
- Proper response: love your wife as Christ loved the church and dedicated Himself for her (Eph 5:25)

General Conflict: with anyone (James 3:14; Heb 12:15)

Bitterness results in complaining and cursing (Jam 3:5-10)

Bitterness defiles those exposed to complaints & cursings (Heb 12:15)

God's proper provision of response to bitterness (Heb 12:14; James 3:13)

CONCLUSION

- Ephesians 5:1-4 (NKJV)
- Walk in Love:
- “Therefore be imitators of God as dear children. ² And walk in love, as Christ also has loved us and given Himself for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling aroma.
- ³ But fornication and all uncleanness or covetousness, let it not even be named among you, as is fitting for saints; ⁴ neither filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor coarse jesting, which are not fitting, but rather giving of thanks. “