

Fellowship Group Questions for *The Power of Redeeming Love*

Sermon #2 – *Bitter Toward God*

Many times when we think of the word “bitter” we associate it with taste. How would you describe something that tastes bitter? **Unpleasant, harsh, disagreeable, etc.**

When you taste something bitter what is your typical reaction? **Some people may spit it out. You may try to drown out the bitter taste with water or by eating something different that will help remove the bitter taste in your mouth. In the very least you will probably avoid putting that bitter substance in your mouth again.**

So, if our natural reaction is to avoid the experience of tasting bitter foods why do you think so many people hold on to bitter feelings and attitudes?

Read Ruth 1:6-9. It looks like Naomi was all set to have her two daughters-in-law move back with her to Bethlehem. Why do you think that she changed her mind and encouraged them to go back home and remarry? **Ultimately, we don't know for sure because we're not told but because of Naomi's bitter emotional state she could have wanted to be alone and miserable. There are a lot of bitter reclusive people. It could also be that she began to realize that it would be hard enough for her to make it on her own back in Israel let alone trying to figure out how three of them would make it.**

Read Ephesians 4:30-32.

How can a Christian bring sorrow, or grieve the Holy Spirit? **By the wrong way that they live.**

What tops the list of the things that bring sorrow to the Holy Spirit? (v. 31) **Bitterness. Just like a bitter taste in our mouths God says we need to get rid of all bitterness from our lives.**

Naomi's bitterness toward God caused her to mislead Orpah and Ruth by giving them unwise counsel (vv. 8-9, 15). What should she have done instead? **She knew she needed to get back to the place of God's blessing, Bethlehem. She should have taken them with her. She should have wanted that same blessing for her daughters-in-law. She should have wanted them to know the one true God.**

In the first part of Isaiah 30, Judah was being warned that because of their rebellion toward God He would bring discipline. Look at verses 18-21 and the beautiful promise He makes them.

What was God waiting to do for them (v. 18)? **Show them love and compassion**

What did they need to do in order to receive God's gracious help (v. 19)? **Cry out to God and ask**

In verse 20 it says that God would be their teacher. According to verse 21 what is it that He would teach them? **He would teach them which way to go. In other words, God wanted to be their guide teaching them which path in life to follow.**

How would the advice in Isaiah 30 have been appropriate for Naomi?

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