

BITTERNESS

INTRODUCTION

An interesting journey out of a bitter life. Used by permission.

One of the mothers of the church received a knock on her front door on December 31st about seven (7) years ago. She answered and two policemen asked her what her name was. She answered, and they said that they had a warrant for her arrest. She quietly told her son's not to do anything, and not to worry, as they handcuffed this Elect Lady, who had done nothing to deserve this, to the jailhouse. Again, she had done nothing to be arrested for, but a warrant was issued, and the police officers carried it out. "Why is God doing this to me?" She wondered. "Lord, are you punishing me from some wrong? Haven't you done enough to make me miserable? I am angry with you!"

As she was being processed, the officers that saw her would say, "Why are you here?" to which she replied, "I don't know."

As they lead her to a cell, the female officer said, "Naomi, I got a cell mate for you." Naomi said, "Is she a Christian?" to which the Elect Lady replied, "Yes I am." "Bring her in here then." This began an all night Bible study, in the darkness of a jail cell. This was the beginning of a journey for both women to be free of the chains, one, from the bondage of a sinful life, the other, from the root of bitterness.

BIBLE LESSON

Sometimes we think we are entitled to certain lifestyle, certain treatment by others, and that certain things just don't happen to us. When people sin against us, and when the worst things happen to us, jealousy and hatred can enter our hearts. If left unchecked, our pride mixed up with jealousy and hate can create bitterness in our souls, so much so that it takes an act of God for deliverance. Such bitterness leaves a person trapped in those feelings until they are resolved.

LESSON 27

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BITTERNESS (CONT)

BIBLE LESSON

There is a solution to bitterness. His name is Jesus.

Bitterness must be put away. Ephesians 4:31-32, Colossians 3:19, James 3:14

Deliverance is in Jesus. I Timothy 1:12-17

Help is available for the asking. I Peter 3:12, Proverbs 15:29, Matthew 7:7-11

APPLICATION

The mother of the church, after talking to her cell mate all night about Yahweh, was released the next day, January 1st of that year. It took her some months to fully realize what God had done to her. All she could see is "I should have never been to jail!" When the work that she had done in that place for Naomi and the rest of the inmates that heard her that night came to her mind, she, through God's help, began to release the attitude of bitterness she had against God and others in her life. The mother started back her life on that day, and was set free from her bondage of bitterness.

Do you have bitterness? Pray for one another in this Sabbath School session.