

## Bait of Satan Lesson 1

Luke 17:1 Then He said to the disciples, "It is impossible that no offenses should come, but woe to him through whom they do come!"

- The enemy of our souls desires to trap and destroy us. He is cunning, crafty, and shrewd. The devil uses several devices to trap us, but the one that is most effective is offense. It is a subtle little thing that will grip you harder than ever.
- Offended people fit into two categories: 1) those who have been treated unjustly and 2) those who *believe* they have been treated unjustly.
- The fruits of offense: hurt, anger, outrage, jealousy, resentment, strife, bitterness, hatred, and envy.
- Offense in the Greek is *skandalon*. Bait stick of a trap for an animal to be captured with. Therefore, an offense is the bait of Satan to pull you, the believer, into his captivity.
- 2 Timothy 2:24 And the Lord's servant must not be quarrelsome but kind to everyone, able to teach, patiently enduring evil, 25 correcting his opponents with gentleness. God may perhaps grant them repentance leading to a knowledge of the truth, 26 and they may come to their senses and escape from the snare of the devil, after being captured by him to do his will.
- Most people don't even know they're offended! If they knew they were in the enemies hands, they wouldn't stay there.
- Matthew 24: 3 Now as He sat on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to Him privately, saying, "Tell us, when will these things be? And what will be the sign of Your coming, and of the end of the age?" 4 And Jesus answered and said to them: "Take heed that no one deceives you. 5 For many will come in My name, saying, 'I am the Christ,' and will deceive many. 6 And you will hear of wars and rumors of wars. See that you are not troubled; for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet. 7 For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. And there will be famines, pestilences, and earthquakes in various places. 8 All these are the beginning of sorrows. 9 "Then they will deliver you up to tribulation and kill you, and you will be hated by all nations for My name's sake. **10 And then many will be offended, will betray one another, and will hate one another. 11 Then many false prophets will rise up and deceive many. 12 And because lawlessness will abound, the love of many will grow cold.** 13 But he who endures to the end shall be saved. 14 And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come.
- The Greek word for love here is not *phileo* or brotherly love, but *agape* which is the love of God. The world does not have that love and cannot obtain it. It's the love we get when we are born again. What Jesus is saying here is that in the last days offense will not be only in society, but in the church. It's a gradual thing that starts with offense. (FROG EXAMPLE).
- Proverbs 18:19 A brother offended is harder to win than a strong city, And contentions are like the bars of a castle. What protects a strong city in those days? WALLS. So an offended brother who is like a strong city has built walls up around himself. A person who has built up walls is like the DEAD SEA, never giving out therefore nothing lives, everything dies.

- A person who has built up walls is a perfect candidate for betrayal. Betrayal is when I seek my protection or my benefit at the expense of one I have a relationship with. Proverbs 18:1 “A man who seeks his own desire rages against wise judgment.” Betrayal will lead to abandonment of a relationship and sever it. Betrayal, if not dealt with, will ultimately lead to hatred. Whoever hates his brother is a murderer, and murderers do not inherit the kingdom of heaven (1 John 3:14-15).
- Absalom hated Amnon. However, he spoke neither good nor evil to him – he was indifferent. Hatred means to have no love – not rage and anger.
- 2 Corinthians 10:3 For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh. 4 For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down **strongholds**, 5 casting down **arguments [reasoning]** and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, **bringing every thought into captivity** to the obedience of Christ, 6 and being ready to punish all disobedience when your obedience is fulfilled.
- Where do reasonings occur? In the mind. Where do thoughts occur? In the mind Where does knowledge occur? In the mind. So what are strongholds? Strongholds are reasonings, thought processes that are contrary to the will of God.
- Remember after you first got saved and loved everyone? Then someone hurt you or gossiped about you or ignored you. The one who can hurt you the most is the one closest to you. Why is that? Higher expectations. So the person in the church has much smaller grace area than those outside of the church. “The world treats me better than most Christians!”
- Psalm 55: <sup>12</sup> For *it is* not an enemy *who* reproaches me;  
Then I could bear *it*.  
Nor *is it* one *who* hates me who has exalted *himself* against me;  
Then I could hide from him.  
<sup>13</sup> But *it was* you, a man my equal,  
My companion and my acquaintance.  
<sup>14</sup> We took sweet counsel together,  
*And* walked to the house of God in the throng.
- Psalm 18:1 A man who isolates himself seeks his own desire and rages against all wise judgment. Isolation doesn’t occur outwardly, it starts inwardly. It will eventually become outward.

### Joseph & his brothers

- 2 types of people: those genuinely mistreated & those with misinformation usually attained from gossip.
- What if you have been genuinely mistreated? Do you have **the right** to be offended?
- Joseph’s brothers were offended with him before they ever betrayed him by selling him for 20 pieces of silver to a caravan of slave traders. They were at the hatred stage. We know the outcome, Joseph did not. All he knew:  
Betrayal of his brothers = live as dead man = no hope of being found by dad  
Betrayal by Potiphar and his wife = dungeon for 2 years = no hope of release

- Absolutely no man, no woman, no child, no devil can get you out of the will of God! Only **YOU** can do that. Only God holds your destiny.
- Quit playing the blame game for your disappointments and hurt – it's YOU! Don't play the "IF" game. My life would have been better if....
- We have to realize the way we react is NOT the way God reacts. He is not like us; His ways are higher than ours.
- If you stay free from offense, you will stay in God's will. If you become offended, you will be taken captive by the enemy to fulfill his purposes and will.
- We must remember that nothing happens without the knowledge of God of it before it ever happens. Nothing takes Him by surprise.
- Malachi 3: In the last days I will send a refining fire to my church. There will be two groups of people :
  - 1) What good is it that we serve God? The more I serve, the worse it gets.
  - 2) Those that fear the Lord. Go through same trials, but don't complain. God hates complaining.
- When the word's sown, affliction will come. The flow of the world is contrary to the flow of the kingdom and you are going to meet with resistance and opposition.
- Can Joseph minister to the two prisoners about the faithfulness of God when he has not seen one ounce of it manifest in his own life in 12 years? He could have been bitter with God.
- If Joseph had decided to be like a lot of believers and get offended with God for the way his life turned out, then he wouldn't have ministered to the two guys in the prison which were his ticket out of there! Your biggest test comes right before the harvest!
- What was God doing to Joseph those 12 years? Developing him to handle the leadership that God wanted to bring him into.