

Bait of Satan Lesson 6

Revenge: The Trap

- *Count of Monte Cristo*
- Monkeys and the banana in a cage
- Offense is a serious thing. Luke 17:1 says, "It is impossible that offenses won't come." What you do with that offense will determine your future; you either become better or bitter.
- When you hold an offense against someone you feel that they owe you something; a debt has not been satisfied. YOU set yourself up to be judge, but God is the only judge.
- Bitterness is an offense that has taken root in your heart and is seen as unfulfilled revenge. It grows and defiles you. (Hebrews 12) A root starts out as a seed of offense and it grows and will destroy you if not plucked out.
- This series is to help you recognize the seed and pluck it out before it grows into a full grown tree of bitterness and hatred.
- Tamar/Amnon/Absalom
- If you let an offense fester, it turns into something more powerful, a stronghold in your life. This is why the Bible says, "Do not let the sun go down on your wrath." Because it will fester!
- You can't ignore offenses; you have to deal with them. It may be done before the throne of God, but you got to come clean and deal with them!
- Absalom let it fester and gathered up an army of supporters. Associate Pastors get offense and cause church splits, etc.
- Are you constantly rehearsing past hurts?
- Absalom was put to death, against his father's wishes. But it was God's judgment because he rose up against his father, God doesn't take that lightly. Absalom had the potential to become the future king, but his bitterness caused him to lose his life. All because of unfulfilled revenge: bitterness.
- Romans 12:17-19. James 4:12, James 5:9
- God is the righteous judge, he will repay according to righteousness.
- We are called to live a just and holy life. The word holy there is *Kadosh* = "A cut above"
- Matthew 5:38-42 calls for us to turn the other cheek. This is not revenge thinking, this is holiness thinking. His ways are not our ways, yet we are called to be like Him.

Escaping the Trap

- Some offenses are easily forgiven and forgotten; others hit us hard and wound us.
- Acts 24:16 Apostle Paul says it is intentional and we must strive or exercise our hearts. Those who read the Bible, study God's word, pray and go to church who do not get easily offended. That's not a personality trait – it's a God trait.
- How do we exercise? Matthew 5:44 "Pray for those who abuse you."

- There is a huge difference between forgiveness and reconciliation. Just look at the cross. A relationship cannot be reconciled unless there is repentance. We are to create an atmosphere of goodness that will cause others to want to repent.
- Immature love – they can do no wrong. He was mean to me so now I don't love him anymore.
- Mature love – they can do wrong to me and I can forgive him and see his faults, but I still love him with the same intensity as before.
- Your sin separates you from God. The offense you hold is not between you and the other person, it is between you and God. When you realize you hold the offense and have sinned against God by doing so, you deal with the offense and repent before God for taking the bait.
- It is impossible that offenses won't come, but what you do with them will determine your future – DON'T TAKE THE BAIT!