

BAIT OF SATAN #1

“Skandalon”

I. Testimony: I Learned About “Bait” As A Little Boy

Slide: Worms And Lures

- When my Grandpa took me fishing; he taught me how to put a worm on a hook
- But my Dad didn’t use worms. He had a tackle box: dozens of lures; different lures for different types of water or different times of the day
- The idea about “bait” is to offer the fish something it will bite-and when they bite it, you’ve got them hooked!

A. Testimony: Satan Doesn’t Need A Tackle Box Full Of Lures

WHEN SATAN GOES FISHING...

1. He has one bait, (one worm), that’s been working for 6,000 years:
 - It’s why some people never come to Christ
 - It’s why many who *have* come to Christ won’t be in any church this weekend
 - It’s why even some here tonight have lost the joy of the Lord
2. The bait of Satan is **offence...or being offended...and it’s deadly to a disciple!**

“One of the greatest (dangers) of the Christian life lurks in the common pathway of discipleship. It is the peril of being offended...”

T. Austin Sparks

3. Jesus spoke a lot about offences, like in Matthew 11:6:

“Blessed is he who is not offended in me.”

Matthew 11:6

4. The word “offended” come from the Greek word “Skandalon”, which means to ensnare or to entrap.

B. “Skandalon”

“The Greeks had a special word for the portion of the animal snare upon which the bait was laid. It was called the “skandalon”.

Bob Mumford

PROP: RAT TRAP

1. When the animal takes the bait, the skandalon, the trap snaps shut and the animal is ensnared.

2. We get the English word “scandal” from Skandalon; a scandal is something that offends us; to be “scandalized” means to be offended.

a. In the NT, skandalon is translated as “offence”; BUT ALSO as a “stumbling stone” or “stumbling block”.

OFFENCES SCANDALIZE US AND TRIP US UP IN OUR WALK WITH GOD

b. The thing that trips us up may only be one inch high, but if it makes us stumble, it can be as effective in blocking our forward movement as a mountain range!

***Testimony of LITTLE offences that have caused BIG problems**

3. The bait of offence is part of a TRAP; and a every trap has 2 things:

PICTURE OF A MOUSE TRAP

a. It must be hidden or disguised, because...

“If a bird sees a trap being set, it knows to stay away.”

Proverbs 1:17 NLT

(The mouse trap, to a mouse, doesn’t LOOK dangerous...but it is!)

b. Secondly, the trap must be ***baited***

(The bait has to be something that appeals to the nature of a mouse)

4. The trap Satan sets is designed to make us stumble; *the bait of Satan is to set before us an opportunity to be OFFENDED.*

“He that will play with Satan’s bait will quickly be taken by Satan’s hook.”

Thomas Brooks

5. Now here this! There is NO WAY to avoid stumbling blocks! Because Jesus Himself said...

C. Offences Are Inevitable

“It is impossible for offences not to come.”

Luke 17:1

1. You cannot live in this world without being offended!
 - a. Testimony: My personal experience with offended church people.
 - b. It is THE #1 GREATEST HINDRANCE TO THE WORK OF GOD!
 - c. I want to read from a booklet by Bob Mumford on Skandalon:

Bob Mumford Quote From “Skandalon” Tract

(Leave slide up while I read the whole text)

Today, multitudes of Christians are not serving God. They attend no local church, or do so only occasionally. They will not make a commitment to any church. They come but they don't serve. They receive spiritual food but don't give money. They call when they're in trouble but they never serve others. These are the offended ones. Somewhere down the line they have been scandalized. The trap was baited and they picked up the offence. The door slammed shut and they've been trapped ever since. They carry their offence everywhere they go. It's their excuse for not going on with God. They quickly tell you, “We've been so HURT in Church.” They can tell you the details of how they were offended by a Pastor, a sermon, a brother, sister or church leader; how they didn't like the vision, the direction, some prophecy...but the bottom line is always the same...they are offended and have no part of serving Kingdom purposes.

Failing to realize that “offences must come”, they seek a place where there are no offences. They long to find a place of rest where no word will upset them and where all the people are pleasant and polite.

But Jesus Himself says such a place doesn't exist.

SO LET ME SUMMARIZE...

2. Since offences are deadly, and offences must come, the issue is not whether or not we will be offended; the issue is how will we RESPOND to offences?

3. This is a CRITICAL question, because as John Bevere says...

“Our response to offence determines our future.”

John Bevere, The Bait of Satan

4. The quality of my Christian life is based on how I handle the 2 kinds of offences.

a. To be offended at *God*

b. Or to be offended by *others*

IF YOU ARE OFFENDED AT GOD, YOU MUST REPENT!

IF YOU ARE OFFENDED AT OTHERS, YOU MUST FORGIVE!

II. How To Handle Offences From Others (Luke 17)

Luke 17:1-5

(NKJV)

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

A. Working Through The Passage

1. 3 Things From 1st Verse

a. This is a special teaching for disciples!

b. Offences must come; it is inevitable that we will be offended

c. We must do everything possible to avoid needlessly offending people because verse 2 says...

2 It would be better for him if a millstone were hung around his neck, and he were thrown into the sea, than that he should offend one of these little ones.

2. Verse 3 says that when it comes to offences, we have to “take heed”!

3 Take heed to yourselves.

a. Watch out!

b. Be in touch with yourself!

c. The bait of Satan is going to present itself to you at any time, at any place!

3. Then Jesus gives the key: Forgiveness!

If your brother sins against you,* rebuke him; and if he repents, forgive him.

a. Notice the term is “brother”!

*Who can really hurt us like our family?

Who can really hurt us like a brother in the Lord?

b. The most serious offences always come from family; from the church; from those we care the most about!

c. It really hurts when a brother offends: BUT JESUS SAYS DEAL WITH IT!

- “Rebuke” means “let them know they have offended you”!
- Give them a chance to repent! To apologize; to make it right!

4. But then comes the kicker!

4 And if he sins against you seven times in a day, and seven times in a day returns to you,* saying, 'I repent,' you shall forgive him."

a. In Matthew 18, Jesus told Peter “70 X 7”!

5. Here’s one of the greatest things I could ever teach you!

***IF YOU’RE GOING TO BE A DISCIPLE OF CHRIST,
YOU’RE GOING TO HAVE TO MAKE UP YOUR MIND TO LIVE IN NEVER
ENDING UNCONDITIONAL FORGIVENESS!***

6. This kind of RADICAL discipleship makes our head spin...as it did theirs!

5 And the apostles said to the Lord, "Increase our faith."

7. This is the only time Jesus disciples ever asked Jesus to increase their faith!

a. They didn't do it when he sent them out to heal the sick and cast out devils

b. They didn't do it when he told them to feed the multitude

c. They didn't do it when he invited them to walk on water

THE ONLY TIME THEY ASKED FOR INCREASED FAITH WAS WHEN JESUS TOLD THEM HOW TO HANDLE THE BAIT OF SATAN!

8. But we must do it!

“Offence cuts us off from God. It separates us from the pipeline. I’ve never seen anything block blessings from heaven except offence.”

John Bevere, The Bait Of Satan

III. Conclusion

A. Sign of the Last Days

1. Jesus said that in the last days many will be offended!

Matt 24:4-14

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.

a. If there's ever been a time when people are OFFENDED, it's now!

HURT SLIDE

THEY ATE THE BAIT: OFFENDED AT GOD; HURT BY OTHERS

BUT THIS IS A GOLDEN MOMENT FOR US TO HELP THEM!

2. The time is ripe to disciple the nations and teach them what God's love looks like!

3. But before we can minister to others, we have to pass the test ourselves!

4. It's time to follow Jesus' example; the One who suffered the offence of the cross and still say...

"Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing."

Luke 23:34

COMMUNION

Review Message/Pray

Mark 11:24-25

24 I tell you, you can pray for anything, and if you believe that you've received it, it will be yours. 25 But when you are praying, first forgive anyone you are holding a grudge against, so that your Father in heaven will forgive your sins, too.*"