



SOWING SEEDS for the *Kingdom*



Jesus Our Jubilee
Church

MARK 16:15-20

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ARE YOU LETTING OFFENSES STOP YOUR MIRACLE?

Dearly Beloved in the Lord,

It seems like today, it is impossible NOT to find someone that is or has been offended lately. This is not only in the world, but also in the CHURCH, THE BODY OF CHRIST! No matter where you travel, you can encounter someone who is upset and offended. Just going to the grocery store can turn ugly with a brief encounter with an angry checkout clerk, and all you're thinking is, "*don't break my eggs!*" Because offense is such a widespread problem, satan uses it as a tool to detour believers from what God has called them to do.

The Greek word used for "offended" in the New Testament is "*skandalon*," which can be translated as "trap stick" or "bait stick." To try and illustrate this, there was a program that once aired on the Discovery Channel that showed how the natives of a particular culture caught monkeys.

The natives placed a cage in the jungle containing a bait stick that the monkeys desperately wanted. When the monkeys approached the cage and saw the bait, they reached through the bars to grab it. But as long as their fists were wrapped around the bait stick, they couldn't pull their hands back out of the cage. Although they could have escaped at any moment, that desire for the bait was so strong that they refused to let go, making their capture effortless for the people who set the trap.

When the natives approached with clubs, the monkeys began jumping up and down and squealing violently, still unwilling to release the bait. They could have been set free simply by letting go, but they wouldn't. The closer the natives came to the animals, the fiercer their shrieking became. Fully aware that death was imminent, they stubbornly refused to let go of

the counterfeit treasure. The predators simply walked up and clubbed them. The monkeys literally held life and death within their grasp.

I believe that this is a perfect illustration of what happens when someone takes hold of offense. Whether you realize it or not, offense is satan's bait stick. As long as you cling to it,

your freedom will escape you just as it escaped the monkeys. While you desperately cling to the bait, the devil effortlessly moves in with death and destruction.

Please take an inward look. What is it that has offended you? Is it just the way someone may have looked at you or heard that something was said about you that wasn't true? Or maybe you had something happen to you as a child. Once the enemy knows what offends you, he will continually send that very thing into your life, hoping to lure you into his trap.

Sometimes harboring offense feels good to your flesh because you are looking for the opportunity to get revenge. You know, you're seeking revenge when you mentally plot and scheme how to get back at someone who hurt you. Letting go of revenge is evidence that you have released the offense.

But as long as you cling to offense...just like the monkeys clung to the bait stick...you can scream, jump up and down, and you can even pray, but you will still be snarfed by the devil's trap. Even though offenses and thoughts of revenge may feel good for a while, they will soon bring ruin into your life.

All the monkeys had to do to be set free was to let go of the bait. The only real thing that kept them trapped was their own intense desire. James 1:14 says, ***"Each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed."*** In reality, the only thing standing between freedom and ruin was the monkey's strong desire for the bait. A simple decision to let go would have brought life;

In the very same way, anyone WILLING to make the decision to release offense can live in complete freedom.

Jesus taught in Mark chapter 4 that when the Word comes to you, that IMMEDIATELY the enemy comes to stop it from bearing fruit.

Mark 4:15-19 (KJV)

15 And these are they by the way side, where the word is sown; but when they have heard, Satan cometh immediately, and taketh away the word that was sown in their hearts.

16 And these are they likewise which are sown on stony ground; who, when they have

or persecution ariseth for the word's sake, immediately they are offended.

¹⁸ *And these are they which are sown among thorns; such as hear the word,*

¹⁹ *And the cares of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, and the lusts of other things entering in, choke the word, and it becometh unfruitful.*

Notice in verse 17 the results of our reacting to things coming against us we are OFFENDED... (BAIT-STICK, TRAP-STICK) and we are unable to bring forth the Word of God that was to bring forth much fruit in our lives. We allowed the enemy keeping us from manifesting THE BLESSING in our lives!

I believe it would do you good to study/meditate Mark 4:15-19, and be aware of the enemies plans to stop you from fulfilling all that God has for you.

Do you allow offenses that are coming against you to take root and stop the best that God has for you? If so, stand against it in Jesus Name. You may have to forgive someone that might seem to be unforgivable. **But the Love of God in you is greater!**

If offenses are keeping you from the Church where GOD HAS SET/PLANTED YOU, let go of them AND get back in Church where you belong. The return of Jesus is closer now than it has ever been, don't fall for his traps...greater is He that is in you than he that is in the world.

ARE YOU READY?

Throw out the nets, bring in the lost, proclaim the gospel, heal the sick, cast out demons! JESUS IS ALIVE AND HE IS COMING BACK.....**ARE YOU READY TO MEET HIM?**

IF YOU ARE NOT SURE PRAY THIS OUT LOUD:

I believe with all my heart that Jesus died for me. I believe with all my heart that He was raised from the dead for me. I turn away from sin. I turn away from everything that is not pleasing to Jesus. From this day forward I declare that JESUS IS LORD OF MY LIFE. I expect the Holy Spirit to lead me and guide me into all the truth. Thank you Lord Jesus for making me a new creation...I will serve you the rest of my days...COME ON IN JESUS!

If you prayed that prayer, you are a NEW CREATION, please, please, please contact me so I can help you get started on the journey of your New Life In Christ Jesus.

Kathy and I are so grateful for your faithfulness in giving of prayers and offerings to help us spread the Kingdom of God throughout the whole earth. SHALOM!

Pastor Dave + KATHY
Pastor Dave and Kathy

Matthew 6:33

You are loved. You are welcome. You belong.