

## "The Trap of Offense"

Luke 17:1-6  
Tony Toth, Feb 4, 2024

### I. HOLDING ON TO AN OFFENSE

#### A. We Will Be OFFENDED

**Luke 17:1 NKJ** [Jesus] said to the disciples, "It is impossible that no offenses should come,"

#### B. Recognize the TRAP

**Luke 17:1-3** "Temptations to sin are sure to come, but woe to the one through whom they come! It would be better for him if a millstone were hung around his neck and he were cast into the sea than that he should cause one of these little ones to sin. Pay attention to yourselves!"

**Skandalon:** a stick for bait (of a trap), generally a snare, a stumbling block, an offense

-NAS Hebrew-Aramaic and Greek Dictionaries

#### C. The DEVIL Is Setting The Snare

**2 Timothy 2:24-26** "And the Lord's servant must not be quarrelsome but kind to everyone, able to teach, patiently enduring evil, correcting his opponents with gentleness. God may perhaps grant them repentance leading to a knowledge of the truth, and they may come to their senses and escape from the snare of the devil, after being captured by him to do his will."

### II. DO I HAVE THE RIGHT TO HOLD AN OFFENSE?

#### A. Pride Justifies BLAMING and DEFENDING

**1 Corinthians 8:1-2** We know that "all of us possess knowledge." This "knowledge" puffs up, but love builds up. If anyone imagines that he knows something, he does not yet know as he ought to know."

**Luke 17:3** "Pay attention to yourselves! If your brother sins, rebuke him, and if he repents, forgive him,"

**Luke 6:37** "Judge not, and you will not be judged; condemn not, and you will not be condemned; forgive, and you will be forgiven;"

#### B. Can We Really Let Offenses Go?

**Luke 17:4-5** and if he sins against you seven times in the day, and turns to you seven times, saying, 'I repent,' you must forgive him." The apostles said to the Lord, "Increase our faith!"

#### C. Jesus Chose LOVE, FORGIVENESS, SACRIFICE

**Romans 5:8** "but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us."

**Luke 17:6** And the Lord said, "If you had faith like a grain of mustard seed, you could say to this mulberry tree, 'Be uprooted and planted in the sea,' and it would obey you."

#### THE NEXT FAITHFUL STEP

- 1. What offends you?:** Discuss with family and friends this week "being offended" has affected our culture.
- 2. Recognize the Trap?** Measure the amount of "being offended" in your life. A heart that is always offended starts to grow hard and produces the fruit of hurt, anger, bitterness and envy in our lives. Pray this week for eyes to see the "tool" and the "trap" of offense and how it is impacting your life. This series will help us do some heart work.