

Freedom From Offense – 1

“Mouse Trap”

Intro: Psalm 119:165 (KJV)

Offense can be dangerous and destructive.

Freedom from it is wisdom and a sign of maturity.

God’s plan for us all is fruitfulness and plenty (blessing)

Offense, like a thief in the night, can rob you of God’s best for your life.

- It can make you an embittered person.
- It can damage and distort your personality.

Examples:

1. King Saul (I Samuel 18:7-8) offended at David
 - He became a deranged mad man.
 - He lost his family / kingdom / and his life.
2. King David (II Samuel 6) offended at God
 - Uzziah died for touching the ark (under judgment)
 - David forfeited the ark for three months (Obed-edom’s house)
 - Michal (Saul’s daughter) took offense at David dancing
 - “She became barren” (II Samuel 6:23)
3. Moses (Numbers 20:10-12) offended at the children of Israel
 - Struck the rock twice vs. speaking to it
 - In anger, called them rebels (children of Israel)
 - For that, he could not lead them into the Promised Land.
4. Naaman (the leper) (II Kings 5) offended at Elisha
 - Naaman was a commander of the Aramean army.
 - King Aram sent him to Elisha to be healed.
 - Naaman was offended at Elisha, but processed it.
5. Pharisees (Matthew 15:12) offended at Jesus
6. The multitudes (John 6:53 eat His flesh and drink His blood)
 - Vs. 66: “From that time, many of His disciples went back and walked no more with Him.”
 - Vs. 61 – Jesus asked His disciples “Does this offend you?”

Mark 4:16-17 (KJV) Stony ground

- Offense can limit your fruitfulness.
- It traps us into ground that is unproductive.
- It is a trap Satan uses to steal God’s Word that changes our lives.

OFFENDED: (Greek root word SCANDALON) 4625 Strong's

- Stumbling block
- To trip up or to entice to sin (ensnare)
- A trap – stick
- (helps word studies) – the trigger of a trap (the mechanism, closing a trap down on the unsuspecting victims)
- The stick in the trap that springs and closes the trap when the animal touches it
Example: mouse trap

“Offense is the bait (cheese) when touched, springs the trap and ensnares us, bringing a certain death to fruitfulness.” (i.e., trap – stick)

Luke 17:1-4 (KJV)

1. They will come (unavoidable).
They come, but we do not have to be-come offended.
Marriage / work place / church
Example: “I’ll become a hermit.”
2. Woe unto him THROUGH whom they come.
Not good for those who become vessels of offense.

[Process of Offense] vs. processing offense

Nurse it

Rehearse it

Disperse it

“God wants to reverse it.”