



"Triumphant In Christ, Victorious In Life"

Sermon Handout Notes: "Are You Avoiding the Trap of Offense?" – 11/18/2018

**Luke 17:1 (KJV)** – "Then said he unto the disciples, It is impossible but that offences will come: but woe unto him, through whom they come! <sup>2</sup>It were better for him that a millstone were hanged about his neck, and he cast into the sea, than that he should offend one of these little ones. <sup>3</sup>Take heed to yourselves: If thy brother trespass against thee, rebuke him; and if he repent, forgive him. <sup>4</sup>And if he trespass against thee seven times in a day, and seven times in a day turn again to thee, saying, I repent; thou shalt forgive him. <sup>5</sup>And the apostles said unto the Lord, Increase our faith. <sup>6</sup>And the Lord said, If ye had faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye might say unto this sycamine tree, Be thou plucked up by the root, and be thou planted in the sea; and it should obey you."

#### INTRODUCTION:

- We shared that one of the underlying themes of the entire Word of God is \_\_\_\_\_.
- We can't receive salvation without **OBEDIENCE** – Repent, Believe the Gospel. (**Romans 10:9 – 10, 13**). When we hear the good news of the truth of gospel of Christ, it requires \_\_\_\_\_ to enjoy the benefits of it. To receive forgiveness of our sins, requires **OBEDIENCE**. **1 John 1:9 (NKJV)** – "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." To experience and enjoy the blessings of The Lord, the prerequisite of \_\_\_\_\_ has to be applied.
- We showed through Scriptural examples of Cain and Abel and King Saul that it is vital to **INSTANTLY** \_\_\_\_\_ Divine Instruction. Because, **DELAYED OBEDIENCE IS DISOBEDIENCE – BECAUSE DIRECTION AND TIMING ARE CRITICAL. IT IS IMPERATIVE THAT WE "HARKEN DILIGENTLY" TO THE LORD'S DIVINE INSTRUCTIONS AND DIRECTIVES. WE MUST INSTANTLY OBEY! PARTIAL OBEDIENCE IS JUST ANOTHER FORM OF DISOBEDIENCE – COMPLETE DISOBEDIENCE.**
- We also discovered that obedience is both an \_\_\_\_\_ and an \_\_\_\_\_.
- **OBEDIENCE** will always bring you victory. **OBEDIENCE** is the key place of *prosperity*, *peace* and *protection* in our lives.
  - **Isaiah 1:19 (NKJV)** – "If you are willing and obedient, you shall eat the good of the land."
  - **Job 36:11 (NKJV)** – "If they obey and serve Him, they shall spend their days in prosperity, and their years in pleasures."

#### CONNECTION BETWEEN FAITH AND LOVE

- **Read Mark 11:23 – 26 and Galatians 5:6 (WITHOUT OBEDIENCE, GOD CANNOT TRUST US WITH HIS POWER!)**
  - **Walking In Love:** (1) Making the **CHOICE** (2) Showing true **COMPASSION** (3) Demonstrating unwavering **COMMITMENT** and (4) Displaying consistent **CARING**. This is the \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ attitudes, actions and activity of **LOVE**.
    - **John 13:34 – 35; John 15:12 – 13; Galatians 5:13**
  - **Walking In Forgiveness: WHY?** To avoid the \_\_\_\_\_ of being \_\_\_\_\_. **How?** (1<sup>st</sup>) Practicing in Instant Forgiveness and Unconditional Love – **Matthew 5:43 – 44 (NKJV)** – "<sup>43</sup>'You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' <sup>44</sup>But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you,"

- This the \_\_\_\_\_ and outward \_\_\_\_\_ actions of Walking in Forgiveness (Our Forgiveness Walk): (1) LOVE - your enemies (not just your friends or those friendly and nice to you); (2) BLESS – those who curse you; (3) DO GOOD – to those who hate you and (4) PRAY – for those who spitefully use you and persecute you.
    - **Luke 6:37 [AMPC]** – In our lives and relationships with people, especially fellow believers and Christ-followers we should allow \_\_\_\_\_ to be greater than **JUDGEMENT**. We should desire to show \_\_\_\_\_ before wanting justice or judgement.
  - (2<sup>nd</sup>) By Removing Roots of Bitterness – This is \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ our heart and soul to a state of freedom from fears, agitating passion and moral conflicts against someone. This is doing the “Faith” work of Forgiveness on the \_\_\_\_\_ of us to ensure that there are no **ROOTS** of Bitterness, **RESENTMENT** or **OFFENSE** in us. **WHY? Ephesians 4:31 - 32 (NKJV)** – “Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, and evil speaking be put away from you, with all malice. And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you.” **HOW? Luke 17:1 - 6 (KJV)** –
    - 1<sup>st</sup> We must realize that in life we will experience marvelous opportunities to get \_\_\_\_\_. We will be both *tempted* and *tormented* by circumstances or unwitting people.
    - 2<sup>nd</sup> Getting \_\_\_\_\_ or taking the **OFFENSE** is BAD and not good at all. **OFFENSES** = (Greek – skandalon) refers to a baited trap that ensnares small animals. *It means to cause to stumble or entice to sin.*
    - 3<sup>rd</sup> We must take heed to ourselves; especially when you encounter relational schisms; get into bad arguments; strife or just somebody did you wrong (e.g. destructive criticism; harmful complaints; condemn you harshly). **WE MUST MAKE SURE WE “LOVINGLY CONFRONT” THEM. IF NOT, THE OPPORTUNITY TO TAKE THE BAIT OF AN OFFENSE WILL COME.**
    - 4<sup>th</sup> We must confront or rebuke our brother or sister about it. Remember, you cannot \_\_\_\_\_ what you are unwilling to **CONFRONT**.
  - **IF YOU ARE ALWAYS GETTING OFFENDED AND TAKING THE OFFENSE THE PROBLEM IS NOT WITH EVERYONE ELSE.**
- If you are going to be a \_\_\_\_\_ person you will have to be a \_\_\_\_\_ person. **1 Peter 3:8 (NKJV); 1 John 3:10 – 16 (NKJV)**
  - What are some things we will need to **AVOID** or **DO** to avoid the trap of being offended?
    - (1) The Desire for \_\_\_\_\_. This is an Unscriptural Attitude
    - (2) When You Truly \_\_\_\_\_, You Won’t Bring Up the Past. People make mistakes.
    - (3) There is a \_\_\_\_\_ **COST** of Offense. 1<sup>st</sup>) – It will choke the life of the Word from your heart; 2<sup>nd</sup>) – Offenses will jeopardize your future. 3<sup>rd</sup>) – You have nothing to gain and everything to lose by becoming offended.

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