

### *The Bait of Satan #3*

Luke 17:1 - Jesus Warns of Offenses - Then He said to the disciples, "It is impossible that no offenses (stumbling Blocks) should come, but woe to *him* through whom they do come!

**Week 1** *It imprisons countless Christians, severs relationships and widens the existing breaches between us. It is the trap of offense.*

**Week 2** *We must come to the place where we trust God and not flesh. Many give lip service to God as their source, yet they live as orphans. They take their own lives in their hands while they confess with their mouths, "He is my lord and God."*

In the first lesson we grouped all offended people into two major categories:

- Those that have been genuinely mistreated -
- Those who think they have been mistreated but actually were not.

In this lesson I want to address this first category.

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Let's begin by asking a question:

If you've been genuinely mistreated, do you have the right to be offended?

In answer, let's look at the life of Jacob's favorite son, Joseph (Genesis 37-48).

- **Joseph** was Jacob's eleventh son.
- He was **despised by his older brothers** because his father favored him and had set him apart with a coat of many colors.

God gave Joseph two dreams

- In the first he saw bound sheaves in a field.
- His sheaf arose and stood upright while his brothers' sheaves bowed down to it.
- In the second dream he saw the Sun, Moon, and eleven stars (representing his father, mother, and brothers) bowing to him.
- When he told these dreams to his brothers, needless to say, they did not share in his enthusiasm.
- They just hated him even more.

Afterward, **his ten older brothers** went to feed their father's flocks in the field.

**Jacob sent Joseph to see how they were doing.**

When the older brothers saw Joseph coming, ***they conspired against him***, saying, ***"Here comes that dreamer.***

- ***Let's kill him!***
- Then we shall see what will become of his dreams!
- He says he is going to be a leader over us.
- Let him try to lead us when he is dead!"
- So they threw him in a pit to die.
- ***They took his coat away, tore it, and stained it*** with animal's blood to ***convince their father he'd been devoured*** by a wild beast.

**After they threw him into the pit**

- They saw a company of Ishmaelites on their way to Egypt.
- Then Judah said, ***"Hey, wait a minute, guys.***
- If we let him rot in that pit ***it will not profit us.***
- ***Let's make some money*** and sell him as a slave.
- He will be as good as dead and will never again bother us, and we'll all share the spoils!"
- So they ***sold him for twenty shekels*** of silver.
- ***Joseph had offended*** them ***so they betrayed him***, taking away his inheritance and family.
- Keep in mind these are brothers who did this—***same father, same flesh and blood.***

***Now as Americans our culture is so different*** that it is hard for us to understand the severity of ***what these men did.***

- Only killing him would have been worse.
- ***In biblical times*** it was very important to have sons.
- ***A man's sons*** carried his name and inherited all he had.
- ***Joseph's brothers*** kept him from ever ***receiving his father's name and inheritance.***

They ***blotted his name out***, completely stripping him of his identity.

***When a person was sold as a slave*** to another country, he remained a slave until he died.

- The woman he married would be a slave!
- All his children would be slaves!

**Joseph was sold** to a man named **Potiphar**, an officer of Pharaoh and captain of the guard.

- He served him for about **ten years**.
- As time went on, **Joseph found favor** with his master and was treated well.
- **Potiphar set Joseph** over his household and all he had.

At the same time that conditions were looking up for Joseph, something very **wrong was brewing** in the wife of his master.

- She had cast longing eyes on him and **wanted to commit adultery** with him.
- **She tried daily** to seduce him, and **he refused**.
- One day she was alone with him in the house and cornered him and **insisted that he lie with her**.
- **He refused** and ran out, **leaving his robe** in her clutched hand.
- When he did this **she was shamed** and **screamed, "Rape!"**
- Potiphar had **Joseph thrown in Pharaoh's prison**.

**Pharaoh's prison** was nothing like our prisons in America.

- No sunlight or workout areas, just a sunken room or pit void of light and warmth.
- Conditions ranged from **crude to dehumanizing**.

**1 Kings 22:27 NKJV** - 'Thus says the king: "Put this *fellow* in prison, and feed him with bread of affliction and water of affliction, until I come in peace."

- **Prisoners** were put there **to rot as they survived** on the bread and water.
- They were given just enough food to survive **so they could suffer**.

Can you hear his thoughts in the damp **darkness of that dungeon?**

- I served my master ***with honesty and with integrity*** for over ten years.
- I'm more faithful than his wife.
- I stayed loyal to my God and my master, **daily fleeing sexual immorality**.
- What is my reward???
- **A dungeon!!!!!!**

***He had very limited freedom in his life, but he still had the right to choose his response to all that had happened to him.***

***Would he become offended and bitter toward his brothers and eventually God?***

- Would he ***give up all hope*** of the promise's fulfillment - - -
  - **Robbing himself** of his last incentive to live?
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***Is God in Control?***

I imagine it never crossed Joseph's mind until it was all over that **this was God's process to prepare him to rule.**

How would he use his future authority over these brothers **who betrayed him?**

- Joseph was **learning obedience** by what he suffered.
- **His brothers** were skillfully wielded instruments in the hand of God.
- Would Joseph hold fast to the promise, ***seeking God*** for its purpose?

***Perhaps when Joseph had his dream*** he saw them as confirmation of the favor on his life.

- He had not yet learned that **authority is given to serve, not** to set you apart.

**To Joseph the bottom line was his brothers.**

- They were the force that had ***thrown him into this dungeon.***
- Maybe he entertained thoughts of ***how things would be different once he was in power*** - - -
- **How different** it all would be if his brothers had not aborted his future.

***How often do we hear our brothers and sisters fall into the same trap of assigning blame?***

**"If it weren't for my wife I would be in the ministry. She has hindered me."**

**"If it weren't for my parents I would have had a normal life. *They are to blame for where I am today.***

- How come others have normal parents and I don't?
- If my mom and dad didn't get divorced...

**“If it weren’t for my pastor repressing this gift in me - - -**

- I would be free and unhindered.
- He has kept me from fulfilling my ministry destiny.
- He has turned the people in the church against me.”

**“If it weren’t for my former husband,**

- my kids and I wouldn’t have all this trouble.”

**The list is endless.....**

**It is easy to blame everyone else for the problems you have and imagine how much better off you would be if it had not been for all those around you.**

**I want to emphasize the following point:**

Absolutely **NO** man/woman/child/ or devil can ever get you out of the will of God!

- **No one but God holds your destiny.**
- **Joseph’s brothers tried hard to destroy the vision God gave him.**
- **They thought they had ended it for Joseph.**
- They said out of their own mouths, Come, therefore, **let us now kill him and cast him into some pit...**
- **We shall see what will become of his dreams!!!**

**Could it get any worse?**

**Prison was a time of sifting for Joseph, but it was also a time of opportunity.**

***There were two prisoners with Joseph***

- Both had vivid and disturbing dreams.
- Joseph interpreted both of their dreams with amazing accuracy.
- **One man was to be restored while the other would be executed.**
- **Joseph asked the one about to be restored to remember him when he regained Pharaoh’s favor.**
- **The man returned to Pharaoh’s service, but two years passed with no word**
- It was yet another let down for **Joseph**
- Another opportunity to become **offended.**

## ***God always has a plan***

The time came when **Pharaoh had a very alarming dream.**

- None of his magicians or wise men could give him the explanation.
- It was then that the restored servant remembered Joseph.

He shared ***how Joseph had interpreted*** his and his companions dream in prison.

- **Joseph** was brought before Pharaoh
- He told him what the dream meant—
- **A famine was coming**—
- And wisely instructed him ***on how to prepare*** for the crisis.
- **Pharaoh immediately promoted Joseph** to second in command over all of Egypt.

***Later when the famine came to all the known nations,***

- **Joseph's brothers** had to come to Egypt for aid.....
- **If Joseph had** held anything in his heart against his brothers -
- That would have been ***the time to carry it out***.
- **He could have** thrown them in prison for life -
- Tortured them and even killed them -
- **He was** second in command in Egypt.

To go one step further, look at ***what Joseph said to his brothers*** when they were reunited.

**Genesis 45:5-8 NKJV** – <sup>5</sup>But now, do not therefore be grieved or angry with yourselves because you sold me here; for God sent me before you to preserve life.

<sup>6</sup>For these two years the famine *has been* in the land, and *there are* still five years in which *there will be* neither plowing nor harvesting.

<sup>7</sup>And God sent me before you to preserve a posterity for you in the earth, and to save your lives by a great deliverance.

<sup>8</sup>So now *it was* not you *who* sent me here, but God; and He has made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house, and a ruler throughout all the land of Egypt.

**Who sent Joseph???**

**His brothers or God????**

**CLOSE:**

**We see that it was God who sent him.**

**Joseph said plainly to his brothers, "It was not you who sent me."**

***As already stated, No mortal man or devil can supersede the plan of God for your life.***

- **If you lay hold of this truth it will set you free.**
- **But there is only one person who can get you *out of the will of God***
- **And that is you!!!!**

You may have been serving the Lord fervently and have come into difficult life situations ***because of being mistreated*** by either wicked people or carnal Christians.

- **The truth is that you have been treated unjustly.**
- **But to become offended would only fulfill the enemy's purpose of getting you out of the will of God.**

**We must remember that nothing can come against us without the Lord's knowledge of it before it ever happens.**

**1 Corinthians 10:13 NKJV** – No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God *is* faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear *it*.

**PRAISE TEAM:**

**So remember:** stay submitted to God by not becoming **offended**;

**James 4:7 NKJV - Humility Cures Worldliness** - Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.

**We resist the devil by not becoming offended**

**The dream or vision** will probably happen differently from how you think it will, but ***His Word and his promises will not fail.***

**We only risk aborting them by our disobedience**