

## Understand your Enemy: Hurts & Offense pt 2 Oct 2

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Hi to those online!

### Announcements or Celebrations:

- **Community Impact Mission: Food and Clothing Drive**

### Church-wide Requests: PRAY TOGETHER. 1. & 2. Great Command & Commission: Love & Disciple family, friends, neighbors & beyond

- That we would be known for our LOVE – especially for those who have HURT US
- That we would be so in LOVE with Jesus that sharing him would become our greatest joy!
- For Steinbach, region, workplaces, schools... pray for our MISSION FIELDS
- Food and Clothing Drive – for people to experience Jesus’ “come just as you are” LOVE

**RECAP:** last week we began looking at WHO OUR ENEMY IS and IS NOT!

1. Our enemy is NOT other people – even if they hurt us!
2. Our enemy is the Devil! And his demons. OUTSIDE
3. Our enemy is our flesh!! Our own sinful desires. INSIDE

We looked at James and how temptation is common and not sinful in and of itself, but when we act up that internally, or externally, it is sin... and sin left undealt with brings forth DEATH..

**Picture:** fly in the house... foothold in the door, to stronghold (bondage)

There is only ONE way that he gets a foothold or hole in our screens! ONE WAY and that is through SIN!

- The devil can't make you do anything
- Neither can PEOPLE put a hole in your screen by hurting you
- Or the culture you grew up in
- Though the enemy may use others to hurt us... ultimately – he only can get a foothold in our lives through unrepented sin.

### SET FREE COMING END OF NOVEMBER!

**Before we go further – remember what I said last week – MOST of our time should be spent BEHOLDING JESUS!** spending our lives to KNOW HIM MORE & MAKE HIM KNOWN TO OTHERS – BUT we need to be aware of the WAR WE ARE IN – and how to STAND FIRM against our enemy.

**PICTURE:** fishing... I have always desired to fish... but haven't quite figured it out... but from what I'm told... you need to KNOW where to go... what LURES to use for the type of fish you are trying to catch... AND then there is TECHNIQUE on how to cast, and move your lure through the water...

Today we are going to look at the enemy's main LURES that he uses to get a foothold in our lives!

**WE ERR IF WE HAVE OVER CONFIDENCE IN OUR OWN INTELLIGENCE AND STRENGTH TO RESIST HIM.**

He works COVERTLY. And has been deceiving people into sin since the beginning of mans existence.

**1 Corinthians 10:11-13** Now these things happened to them as an example, but they were written down for our instruction, on whom the end of the ages has come. **Therefore let anyone who thinks that he stands take heed lest he fall.** No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it.

**What are the enemies BEST LURES?** We are going to look at Hurts, Lies & Offense.

**SOIL & SEED:** The enemy also has preferred soil to plant his seeds! Although he has a few different methods, his most deadly one comes in the form of UNRESOLVED HURTS & PERCEIVED INJUSTICES. This is where we are most vulnerable... and this is a preferred soil for him to DECEIVE US.

**A. Soil: Hurts & Wounds → Seed: Lies - Offense & Bitterness!**

**REMEMBER Peter's warning:** "the devil prowls around like a roaring lion seeking someone to devour"

- Lions prey on the WEAK & VULNERABLE.
- Nothing makes humans more vulnerable than PAIN... when we are hurt, wounded, rejected, abused, abandoned... we are at our most susceptible spot for believing LIES.
- **John 12:4-8** But Judas Iscariot, one of his disciples (he who was about to betray him), said, "Why was this ointment not sold for three hundred denarii and given to the poor?" He said this, not because he cared about the poor, but because he was a thief, and having charge of the moneybag he used to help himself to what was put into it. Jesus said, "Leave her alone, so that she may keep it for the day of my burial. For the poor you always have with you, but you do not always have me."
- **Matthew 26:14-16** Then one of the twelve, whose name was Judas Iscariot, went to the chief priests and said, "What will you give me if I deliver him over to you?" And they paid him thirty pieces of silver. And from that moment he sought an opportunity to betray him.
- **Judas: unrepented sin – money, corrected – hurt embarrassed? - to BETRAYING JESUS!**

**Matthew 24:10-14** And then many will fall away and betray one another and hate one another. And many false prophets will arise and lead many astray. And because lawlessness will be increased, the love of many will grow cold. But the one who endures to the end will be saved. And this gospel of the kingdom will be proclaimed throughout the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come.

- **HEAR THE WARNING. Because of OFFENSE – LOVE grows COLD – people are easily DECEIVED.**
- **Don't take the bait! Don't be offended! Too much is at stake!**

**We ALWAYS have a choice though – ALWAYS – will we become BITTER or BETTER?**

**Matthew 18:21-35** Then his master summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. And should not you have had mercy on your fellow servant,

as I had mercy on you?’ And in anger his master delivered him to the jailers, until he should pay all his debt. So also my heavenly Father will do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother from your heart.”

### **Don’t take the bait! Jesus was CLEAR – He expects us to FORGIVE FROM THE HEART**

**Offense & Bitterness are crafty LIES:** because we tolerate it in our lives and the lives of those around us and actually feel bad for the one who has been hurt.... Which makes it the PERFECT SOIL FOR THE ENEMY to tempt us to be OFFENDED!!

Hurts and wounds are legitimate and sure to come! Holding onto offense and becoming bitter are a choice – and are sin.

**Matthew 6:9-15** Pray then like this: “Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For if you forgive others their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you, but if you do not forgive others their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.

### **B. Two main areas to watch for offense:**

#### **1. Wrongs done to us**

- a. **HURTS:** rejection, abuse, abandonment, humiliation, insults, persecution, etc.
- b. **Examples:** many women and men, who have been abused horrifically growing up... or within their marriages... AWFUL! Those types of INJUSTICES are UNACCEPTABLE and my heart HURTS for those who have experienced such treatment!
  - i. BUT –holding onto that hurt, as though it will make it better, or that justice will be served by holding onto the hurt, is a LIE FROM THE DEVIL MEANT TO TRAP YOU IN YOUR PAIN & PUT YOU INTO SIN.

#### **2. Perceived wrongs done to us**

- a. **FIRST:** good things we missed out on – neglect
  - i. E.g. parents never took the time for us... or prioritized their work over us...
  - ii. E.g. spouse doesn’t love you the way that you think they should – you like words of affirmation, they are wired for acts of service... so instead of appreciating what their differences and receiving their love, you feel rejected and harbor offense.
- b. **SECOND:** Mindreading – judging someones motives – you just, “know” why they did
  - i. **Matthew 7:1-2** “Judge not, that you be not judged. For with the judgment you pronounce you will be judged, and with the measure you use it will be measured to you.

### **C. The devastating effects of offense & bitterness:**

1. When we hold onto offense, the Lord does not forgive our offenses
2. It imprisons us in the pain from whatever happened and prevents us from healing
3. It is at the root of addiction and MANY other dysfunctional behaviours

4. It causes our LOVE to grow cold
5. It sets us up for further deception (more on this in pt 3)

#### **D. Recognize & Deal with Hurts, Offenses & Bitterness**

##### **1. Recognizing Hurts, Offense & Bitterness:**

- **Right Path:** Can you feel the hurt & not get stuck? Do you show them grace? Are you praying for them? Do you genuinely feel God's heart towards them? Are you demonstrating your love for them? If so, how? Would those around you say that you have forgiven them?
- **Danger:** do you rehearse the offense inwardly? And to others? Do you avoid them? Have you refused to forgive when they've asked? Do you speak negatively about them? Do you get stuck when you think about what happened? Do you feel nothing at all about what happened? What would those around you say?

##### **2. Dealing with hurts, offenses & bitterness:**

- Invite others to speak into your hurts & call you on gossip, offense & bitterness
- Work through pain –don't bottle it up!
- Confess bitterness & forgive the offender
- Pray for the person who hurt you (daily?)
- Demonstrate love to them (if appropriate)
- Work through the process with a trusted pastor, friend or counselor

**Perhaps you are here and you've been hurt...** by your spouse... a parent... a teacher... your boss... a stranger... a pastor... whether real or perceived... you FEEL HURT & WOUNDED by what they did...

- Jesus too, was mocked, ridiculed, treated unfairly, abused, rejected, abandoned and killed...
- **The ENEMY wants you to harden your heart to Jesus** and to listen rather to his LIES – he is telling you that you are JUSTIFIED in your OFFENSE – that FORGIVING the other person is the same as saying, "WHAT YOU DID IS OK" – or, "forgiving them will open you up for MORE HURT" whatever LIE he is using to CONVINCING YOU TO HOLD ONTO THE HURT – you have a choice!
- **To come to Jesus and take him at his word... Hebrews 4:15-16** For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

Our choice: To BECOME BITTER – or, to FORGIVE, HEAL & WALK IN THE WAY OF JESUS.

Commit to being UNOFFENDABLE – Bring your hurts & bitterness to JESUS!

**MARANATHA!! Come soon Lord!**

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## SC CHURCH WIDE PRAYER REQUESTS 2022

Cruise Ship → → → → → Battleship

1. **Great Command** (Mt 22:37-40): Love God – Love people: hospitality, generosity, serving & empathy
2. **Great Commission** (Mt 28:18-20): Disciple family, friends, neighbors & beyond
3. **Word & Truth** (1Pet 3:15): Know the Gospel, grow in discernment, speak the truth in love
4. **Persecuted Church** (2 Cor 4:7-10): Religious freedom, freedom of speech, spiritual fortitude, wisdom
5. **Church Renewal:** Directors for India & the Chinese worldwide, make many global disciple makers (The Way)
6. **DONE - Leadership:** Wisdom and direction in the search for Lead Pastor and Executive Pastor