

Skandalon – the Bait of Satan

Luke 17:1 (NKJV) Then He said to the disciples, "It is impossible that no offenses should come, but woe *to him* through whom they do come!

✓ Avoiding offense is impossible, but living offended is a **choice**.

Skandalon {skan'-dal-on}: the bait that triggers a trap to close when an animal touches it.

The Trap

1. Offense is **inevitable**.

Matthew 24:10 (NKJV) And then many will be offended, will betray one another, and will hate one another.

2. Offense distorts **perception**.

2 Timothy 2:24-26 (NLT) A servant of the Lord must not quarrel but must be kind to everyone, be able to teach, and be patient with difficult people. ²⁵ Gently instruct those who oppose the truth. Perhaps God will change those people's hearts, and they will learn the truth. ²⁶ Then they will come to their senses and escape from the devil's trap. For they have been held captive by him to do whatever he wants.

✓ When your heart gets wounded, your vision gets **skewed**.

3. Offense can put us in the **penalty box**.

✓ Offense is Satan's **trap** to derail God's plan for our lives.

Matthew 18:34-35 (NLT) Then the angry king sent the man to prison to be tortured until he had paid his entire debt. ³⁵ "That's what my heavenly Father will do to you if you refuse to forgive your brothers and sisters from your heart."

4. Wisdom is learning to **overlook** an offense.

Proverbs 19:11 (ESV) Good sense makes one slow to anger, and it is his glory to overlook an offense.

✓ Overlooking offense is **choosing** to believe the best and not assume the worst.

Proverbs 18:19 (NLT) An offended friend is harder to win back than a fortified city. Arguments separate friends like a gate locked with bars.

✓ Spiritual maturity isn't about being **right** – it's choosing to be righteous.