

The Danger of Being a Spiritual Detriment to Others (Luke 17:1-2)

¹ Then He said to the disciples, "It is impossible that no **offenses** should come, but woe *to him* through whom they do come! ² "It would be better for him if a millstone were hung around his neck, and he were thrown into the sea, than **that he should offend** one of these little ones.

The Key _____ of Jesus' Teaching Here

skandalon (σκάνδαλον) – noun – "offense"

Friberg (1) strictly, the movable bait stick or trigger in a trap *trap stick*; by synecdoche, the trap itself *snare*; (2) metaphorically *trap*, i.e. *what causes a person to sin, cause of ruin, occasion of falling*; (3) figuratively; (a) as an *enticement* to sin or apostasy *temptation, offense*; (b) as what gives offense or arouses opposition *stumbling block, offense*

skandalidzo (σκανδαλίζω) – verb – "to offend"

Friberg: *cause to stumble*; figuratively in the NT; (1) active, as occasioning transgression *cause to do wrong or sin*; passive *be led into sin, be caused to do wrong*; in an absolute sense *fall away, give up believing*; (2) passive, as taking offense at Jesus or refusing to believe in him *be offended*; (3) as furnishing an occasion for someone to be shocked or angered *give offense to, offend*

Matt 26:31 Then Jesus said to them, "All of you will be **made to stumble** because of Me this night, for it is written: 'I will strike the Shepherd, And the sheep of the flock will be scattered.'

1. Truth #1: Scandals Are _____ to Come

¹ Then He said to the disciples, "It is impossible that no **offenses** should come,

- God is _____ of scandals**
- God _____ offenses to be committed**
- God _____ us of the presence of offenses**

2. Truth #2: _____ of Scandalizers Will Be Severe

but woe *to him* through whom they do come! ² "It would be better for him if a millstone were hung around his neck, and he were thrown into the sea, than **that he should offend** one of these little ones.

- God is _____ of those that commit scandals**
- God _____ these scandals**
- God has _____ scandalizers**
- God warns that He will _____ judge scandalizers**

3. Truth #3: The Scandalized Will Know _____

of these little ones.

- God is _____ of those that are scandalized**
- God will make things _____ through judgment**

Who Are the Scandalized in This Context? (Matt 18:1-10)

¹ At that time the disciples came to Jesus, saying, "Who then is greatest in the kingdom of heaven?" ² Then Jesus called a **little child** to Him, set him in the midst of them, ³ and said, "Assuredly, I say to you, unless you are converted and become **as little children**, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven. ⁴ "Therefore whoever humbles himself as **this little child** is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. ⁵ "Whoever receives **one little child** like this in My name receives Me.

⁶ "But whoever causes one of **these little ones** who believe in Me to sin, it would be better for him if a millstone were hung around his neck, and he were drowned in the depth of the sea. ⁷ "Woe to the world because of offenses! For offenses must come, but woe to that man by whom the offense comes!

⁸ "If your hand or foot causes you to sin, cut it off and cast *it* from you. It is better for you to enter into life lame or maimed, rather than having two hands or two feet, to be cast into the everlasting fire. ⁹ "And if your eye causes you to sin, pluck it out and cast *it* from you. It is better for you to enter into life with one eye, rather than having two eyes, to be cast into hell fire.

¹⁰ "Take heed that you do not despise one of **these little ones**, for I say to you that in heaven their angels always see the face of My Father who is in heaven.

The Two-Sided Sword: Blessings & Dangers

- The Influence of Adults Over Children*
- The Inherent Trust of Children Towards Adults*
- The Physical Strength of Adults Over Children (even in the womb)*

What Are Ways WE Can Scandalize Others of Any Age?

1. By Being _____ Minded

Matt. 16:23 But He turned and said to Peter, "Get behind Me, Satan! You are an **offense** to Me, **for you are not mindful of the things of God, but the things of men.**"

2. By Being _____

Rom 16:17 Now I urge you, brethren, note those who cause divisions and **offenses**, contrary to the doctrine which you learned, and avoid them.

3. By Not _____ in God's Word

1 John 2:10 **He who loves his brother abides in the light**, and there is no **cause for stumbling** in him.

4. By _____ Idolatry and Sexual Immorality

Rev. 2:14 "But I have a few things against you, because you have there those who hold the doctrine of Balaam, who taught Balak to put a **stumbling block** before the children of Israel, to eat things sacrificed to idols, and to commit sexual immorality.

5. By Asserting Your _____ at the Cost of a Weak Believer

1 Cor. 8:13 Therefore, if food makes my brother stumble, I will never again eat meat, **lest I make my brother stumble.**