

CANDY COVERED HAND GRENADES – PART ONE (3 Part Series)

(If you can, use these notes with the coordinating Power Point File.)

OFFENSES

ASK THESE QUESTIONS:

- HOW MANY HAVE EVER BEEN HURT BY SOMEONE?
- HOW MANY HAVE EVER BEEN OFFENDED?
- HOW MANY HAVE EVER BEEN DEEPLY OFFENDED?

POINT 1 ONE OF THE GREATEST BARRIERS IN OUR CHRISTIAN LIVES, TO BEING ALL GOD HAS CALLED US TO BE IS: ALLOWING AN OFFENSE TO TAKE HOLD OF US.

- Are you giving some offense toward someone a home in your heart?
- Are you allowing some offense toward someone to control your emotions, and tell you how to feel?
- Is some offense coming between you and someone you care about? How about between you and the Lord?
- An offense is like a Candy Covered Hand Grenade. It tastes good going down, but it will always destroy you. It is not the offense itself that is the problem. It is when we pick it up and consume it that the trouble begins within us. We feed our hearts with the offense and then have to deal with what it does to our hearts.

READ ALOUD: LUKE 17:1a → “Then said he unto the disciples, It is impossible but that offences will come...”

The Greek Word used here for offense actually comes from word “*skandalon*.” This word is often used in the New Testament to mean a snare or trap. It is sometimes translated “*temptation*.” This word originally referred to the part of the trap that the bait was attached to.

- What do we use bait for? Answer: It is used to catch something that otherwise would be unwilling to be caught.
Examples:
 1. The cheese in a mouse trap seems attractive but when the mouse tries to consume it... ouch!
 2. The fish sees the worm dangling from the hook and when he bites, he is hooked.
Ouch again!
- Satan loves to lay “bait” out for us. Here’s how it works. Someone wrongs us (or we feel they’ve wronged us) and the “bait” comes out. We have a choice to make. We forgive and keep on moving... or we eat the bait and take up an offense. When we take up the offense, we SWALLOW THE CANDY COVERED GRENADE. It tastes good to us for a moment, but...

POINT 2 OFTEN, IT IS THOSE CLOSEST TO US THAT HURT US.

READ ALOUD: PSALM 55:12-14

Give an overview of the story of Saul’s jealousy and pursuit of David, from 1 SAMUEL 16-31.

- Twice David had Saul where he had the ability to kill him. He refused to take the bait. He would not allow himself to be trapped. He refused to do what he knew was wrong for him to do. He refused to offend God.
- Not only that, but when Saul finally was killed in battle, David continued to honor Saul and killed the one who killed Saul.

POINT 3 JESUS TAKES IT A STEP FURTHER. HE TEACHES US ABOUT LOVING AND FORGIVING THOSE WHO HURT US.

(Otherwise, if we take up an offense, we are snared.)

READ ALOUD: MATTHEW 5:43-47 from the New Living Translation

THE LESSON OF THE SERMON

God uses the difficult decisions we face to purify our lives and help us to become more like Him. We won't know what is in us, until the pressure is on us.

READ ALOUD: 1 PETER 1:6-7

END THE SERMON WITH THESE ILLUSTRATIONS.

A. GOLD

Gold refiners grind freshly mined gold into powder and mix it with a substance called "flux." The mixture is put in the furnace and melted by intense heat. The impurities in the gold are drawn to the flux and together they rise to the surface. The gold stays at the bottom because it's heavier than the impurities. The dross (the other metals combines with the flux) is moved and the yield is pure, precious metal.

B. BANANAS

What happens when you step on a banana...WHAT COMES OUT? BANANA!
What's inside always come out when it's stepped on. HOW IS YOUR BANANA?

C. TREES

When a tree is starved for water, its roots grow deeper, helping it in the long run.

ALTAR MINISTRY

PRAYER FOR RELEASE FROM OFFENSES

To be continued (Parts 2 and 3)