

Strife – the snare of the Enemy – 3

I believe that in these last days the enemy will use strife to keep us from walking in the victorious (Kingdom) life God has planned for us as well as cause offenses between believers.

The Devil will use circumstances to kindle strife which cause us to think and say things we should not causing unresolved offenses. When there is a Spirit of offense operating it will cause us to betray one another. The seed of separation gets in when we get our eyes off Jesus and start to look at the wrong things.

The Devil is called “The accuser of the brethren”

– No Slide: Revelation 12:10

Matthew 24:10

10 And then many will be **offended**, will betray one another, and will hate one another. NKJV

- Offend – “*skandalizo*” – to set a trap to ensnare something
- This is where we get the word, scandal

We learned that the Rock (Jesus) was struck once now we need to speak and activate our faith

Rivers of living water

Last Week

No Slide: Deuteronomy 1:34

34 "And the LORD heard the sound of your words, and was angry, NKJV

Moses led Israel out of Egypt where they were slaves
Even though they were free they still had a *slave mentality*

If plants, water and trees can have words of blessing or cursing spoken over them having a positive or negative affect, what about human beings?

Many times the wounds we receive are from those we are close to or even in our own family – *Inner Circle*
Jesus not only identifies with this but also paid the price for us to be free from unforgiveness, bitterness, wrath and strife

There is a difference between the wounds from an enemy and the wounds of a friend

Psalm 41:9

9 Even my own familiar friend in whom I trusted,
Who ate my bread, Has lifted up his heel against me. NKJV

- Lifted his heel – the idea of a horse that lifts its leg and kicks the one feeding it

John 13:18-19

18 "I do not speak concerning all of you. I know whom I have chosen; but that the Scripture may be fulfilled, 'He who eats bread with Me has lifted up his heel against Me.'

19 Now I tell you before it comes, that when it does come to pass, you may believe that I am He. NKJV

- He was the overseer of “the bag” – **John 12:6**
- It takes a great deal of trust to let someone handle your money

Mark 14:44

44 Now His betrayer had given them a signal, saying, "Whomever I kiss, He is the One; seize Him and lead Him away safely." NKJV

- Kiss – *Phileo* – “to be fond of”
- Even today a middle eastern custom
– kiss on both cheeks

Judas was the ultimate example of betrayal from an inner-circle friend

Judas used his mouth to betray – a kiss

The deepest wounds can come from those we are close to that use their mouths to cut us to the core

Sometimes people can even smile to our face and behind our back be talking to others about frustrations, etc

The Good Samaritan

Luke 10:30-37 (Wounds need the oil and wine)

30 Then Jesus answered and said: "A certain man went down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell among thieves, who stripped him of his clothing, wounded him, and departed, leaving him half dead. 31 Now by chance a certain priest came down that road. And when he saw him, he passed by on the other side. 32 Likewise a Levite, when he arrived at the place, came and looked, and passed by on the other side. 33 But a certain Samaritan, as he journeyed, came where he was. And when he saw him, he had compassion. 34 So he went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine; and he set him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him.

35 On the next day, when he departed, he took out two denarii, gave them to the innkeeper, and said to him, 'Take care of him; and whatever more you spend, **when I come again, I will repay you.'** 36 So which of these three do you think was neighbor to him who fell among the thieves?" 37 And he said, "He who showed mercy on him." Then Jesus said to him, "Go and do likewise." NKJV

Wine:

- Wine is derived from *crushed* grapes
- Wine has a certain acid content in it and can kill bacteria and germs
- Oil is soothing and has been proven to be effective on bruises and cuts

Among the ancients the grape harvest has always represented joy

When we have been verbally abused it's hard to get our joy back – **Isaiah 61:3** oil of joy for mourning

Oil:

Hebrews 12:2

2 looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. NKJV

- Oil is derived from *crushed* olives
- Olive oil has always been a representation of the anointing of the Holy Spirit
- Holy Spirit enables us to walk in freedom and minister to others. **The anointing breaks the yoke of bondage** and the joy of the Lord brings release to the soul

Both elements require – *Crushing*
Gethsemane – the place of pressing

The Priest: is a picture of “the Law”

The Levite: is a picture of “the temple ministry”

Neither the Law of Moses nor the temple ministry could help the Samaritan

Add to that the Jews literally despised Samaritans dating back to the conspiracy of Sanballat the governor of Samaria in Nehemiah’s time – trying to prevent them from rebuilding the wall (son of the high priest married the daughter of Sanballat) this priest left and settled in Samaria. They later constructed a temple on Mt. Gerizim in Samaria. These Jews were expelled from Jerusalem where they married Gentile women, they became a mingled people.

This created an environment of religious racism and tension

Jesus and the Samaritan woman at the well

John 4:9, 20

9 Then the woman of Samaria said to Him, "How is it that You, being a Jew, ask a drink from me, a Samaritan woman?" For Jews have no dealings with Samaritans.

20 Our fathers worshiped on this mountain, and you Jews say that in Jerusalem is the place where one ought to worship." NKJV

- Spiritually proud people tend to ignore their own sin and debate religion with the best of them
- Many times wounds can be inflicted
- Deal with your own sin and love people

Christ's wounds bring healing

Isaiah 53:5

5 But He was wounded for our transgressions,
He was bruised for our iniquities;
The chastisement for our peace was upon Him,
And by His stripes we are healed. NKJV

The Crown of Thorns

Matthew 27:29

29 When they had twisted a crown of thorns, they put it on His head, and a reed in His right hand. And they bowed the knee before Him and mocked Him, saying, "Hail, King of the Jews!" NKJV

Hebrews 6:8

8 but if it bears thorns and briers, it is rejected and near to being cursed, whose end is to be burned. NKJV

- That which bears thorns is to be burned
 - Achan: Joshua 7:10-26 family, stoned, burned and placed under rocks
- Because Jesus was accused of blasphemy Jesus' body should have been removed from the cross, burnt, and His ashes dumped in the valley of Hinnom
 - Deep gorge on the west side of the city where they would dump and burn garbage
- Joseph of Arimathea took Christ body and placed it in his personal tomb – Matthew 27:57-58
- Gods plan: Christ took our mental anguish
 - A rose is beautiful (life)
 - To remove it you may get pricked (problems)

The Reed on the Head

Matthew 27: 30

30 Then they spat on Him, and took the reed and struck Him on the head. NKJV

- Reed (kalamos)– Translated reed or staff
- Blows to the head can cause not only pain but affect memory
- The attacks of the enemy of doubt, depression and discouragement can cause us to forget the promises of God
- Christ took our mental blows so we could rest in Him and have the mind of Christ
 - **No Slide: 1 Corinthians 2:16** But we have the mind of Christ. NKJV

The Spit on His Face

Matthew 26:67

67 Then they spat in His face and beat Him; and others struck Him with the palms of their hands, NKJV

- Being spit on is one of the most degrading physical acts
- It is an act of condemnation
 - **Leviticus 15:8, Deuteronomy 25:9, Numbers 12:14**
- Condemnation can be a powerful weapon of the enemy

Romans 8:1

1 There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit. NKJV

His Hair Removed

Isaiah 50:6

6 I gave My back to those who struck Me,
And My cheeks to those who plucked out the beard;
I did not hide My face from shame and spitting. NKJV

- To the Jews a beard was a symbol of manhood
- It was also required of the priests – **Leviticus 21:5**
- Aaron had a beard – **Psalms 133**
- The enemy desires to degrade men
- We live in a society where manhood is under attack
- Many times there is a void of a male attention and affection – homosexuality is becoming pop culture
- Jesus is the answer
- Our BOYS NEED THEIR FATHER

The Flogging

1 Peter 2:24

24 who Himself bore our sins in His own body on the tree,
that we, having died to sins, might live for righteousness —
by whose stripes you were healed. NKJV

- Each stripe provided healing – *The Flogging*
- *40 minus one* – 39 major diseases
- Jesus is the “True Bread from Heaven” – **John 6**
- When God rained Manna in the wilderness it was white in color and similar to a coriander seed
- Coriander has furrows or *stripes* across its outer shell
- Jewish Passover bread called *Matzo*, is baked with small holes and furrows on the front and back
- Manna would have to be *crushed* to be used to produce food

The Rejection Factor

Isaiah 53:3

3 He is despised and rejected by men,
A Man of sorrows and acquainted with grief. NKJV

- Herod tried to have Him slaughtered
- Could anything good come from Nazareth?
– John 1:46
- They tried to throw him off a cliff – Luke 4
- The religious hierarchy tried to trap Him continually
- All of the disciples fled except John and Peter
- Peter denied Him
- Have you felt rejection?
- Have you been called names?
- Have you been the brunt of jokes?

The Scapegoat: In the ancient temple the priest would lay his hands on the scapegoat on the Day of Atonement to transfer the sins of the people

He was then led off a cliff

Some farmers have said that goats will take on the sicknesses of other animals

Christ experienced the weight of sickness and sin in His own body and gave us His righteousness

2 Corinthians 5:21

21 For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him. NKJV

Matthew 11:28

28 Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. NKJV