



Campbell Chapel

Sermon by Bob Bradley



Offences Will Come

Wednesday, April 11, 2018

Bob Bradley

There is a little thought we want to talk about this evening, the Lord being our helper. There are some things here that has been on our minds...we want to talk about here this evening.

Luke 17:1 Then said he unto the disciples, *It is impossible but that offences will come: but woe unto him, through whom they come!*

Luke 17:2 *It were better for him that a millstone were hanged about his neck, and he cast into the sea, than that he should offend one of these little ones.*

Luke 17:3 *Take heed to yourselves: If thy brother trespass against thee, rebuke him; and if he repent, forgive him.*

Luke 17:4 *And if he trespass against thee seven times in a day, and seven times in a day turn again to thee, saying, I repent; thou shalt forgive him.*

Luke 17:5 *And the apostles said unto the Lord, Increase our faith.*

Luke 17:6 *And the Lord said, If ye had faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye might say unto this sycamine tree, Be thou plucked up by the root, and be thou planted in the sea; and it should obey you.*

Luke 17:7 *But which of you, having a servant plowing or feeding cattle, will say unto him by and by, when he is come from the field, Go and sit down to meat?*

Luke 17:8 *And will not rather say unto him, Make ready wherewith I may sup, and gird thyself, and serve me, till I have eaten and drunken; and afterward thou shalt eat and drink?*

Luke 17:9 *Doth he thank that servant because he did the things that were commanded him? I trow not.*

Luke 17:10 *So likewise ye, when ye shall have done all those things which are commanded you, say, We are unprofitable servants: we have done that which was our duty to do.*

Jesus is on His way to Jerusalem and He is going to die shortly. I thought about what—and I have said this many times, about different things—but some things He was saying in the last days and hours of His life, I think that we and me and sometimes we don't understand how important they must have been to Him. He knew He was going to go to Jerusalem. He was going to die. He knew He was going to leave these guys behind. These disciples that there here with Him. He knew that they were not going to have Him with them anymore. Jesus knew that.

Jesus knew what was going to take place. Jesus knew that all the things that chief priests and the scribes and the elders weren't doing and were going to be doing was going to have a drastic effect on how these guys lived, on what they did, and what they thought. Jesus was giving them some instruction because it was a very critical time in

their life. Again, He was going to go there just shortly and die. They were going to be by themselves. We know they were scared to death. We know the scriptures we have read and studied. You know that. They were scared. They thought they could be the next ones that was going to be killed. Jesus knew that.

However, He also knew that what the religious leaders were doing and was going to be doing; He was trying to prepare them for the on slot that was about to take place. Again, these guys didn't understand that. The disciples didn't get it; like we get so much we don't understand about what is going to take place.

Jesus here, He wants them to understand that there are going to be difficult times ahead. He is going to let them know that there is going to be times that people were going to offend them. People were going to do all kinds of things towards them; mean, hateful things, and things that were absolutely wrong. He is trying to prepare them for that because Jesus Christ knew that was going to happen.

In life, today, if we are saved today; it is not "if" people are going to offend us but it is "when" people are going to offend us. That is going to happen in all of our lives.

He is talking to the disciples. He is talking to them. He is on His way Jerusalem. He is teaching them, preparing them for the things that are going to take place here. It was a very serious time. There are a lot of great lessons that we want to look at here. There are some things here that we want to look at tonight that are very essential in my life and in your life; if we are going to be able to live a Christian life and if we are going to be able to deal with the offences when they come our way. Because everywhere we look, there is sin. There is sin in our homes. There is sin in our school systems. There are sins on our jobs. There is sin in our churches. There is sin in the work place. There is sin at the grocery store, everywhere that we go there is sin. That sin is going to affect us. Sometimes it affects us more than it does other times. Jesus knew that here with these guys.

Luke 17:1 Then said he unto the disciples, **It is impossible but that offences will come: but woe unto him, through whom they come!**

Do you know what that means? You can't get around them. There are going to be times when offences are going to come. There are going to be times when things are going to happen in us that are going to knock the props out from under us that is going to bend us whether it would be a word or an action that may happen to us or toward us. Those things are going to happen. It is going to happen in life. Jesus wants us to be prepared for that. He wants these guys here to be prepared for it. Again, it is not if offences are going to come, or troubles or problems are going to come that is going to offend us and cause us issues. It is impossible for you and for me to live a Christian life, live a life that is pleasing to God and not have offences come. They are going to happen.

This is the lesson. Offences are going to come. Jesus knew the Pharisees, the Sadducees, the scribes, the Herodians; Jesus knew that all this was going to take

place. Not only that but He knew what was going to happen after Pentecost. He knew that these guys were going to get beat up. He knew that these guys were going to get thrown into jail. He knew that these guys were going to get bombarded because they were preaching and teaching and people were getting saved. Jesus knew that these guys were going to get hammered and they were going to get hammered big time. However, He wanted them to understand and He wanted them to be prepared for that because it was going to happen. Amen!

If you have been saved, a week, month, a year, or 5 years; there are going to be things that are going to offend you. The enemy...is going to use somebody—it may be somebody close to you. It might be your family. It might be a co-worker. It might be somebody you have never met before. It may be somebody you run into at the grocery store. The enemy is going to use somebody to offend you, to get you upset, to get you to try to do something that you are going to retaliate so that you will defile your conscious before Almighty God. If he can get us to do that then he has a foothold in our lives. That is what he is trying to do.

Look what Jesus said here. Offences are going to come. You can't get around it. It is going to happen. But He says...

Luke 17:1 Then said he unto the disciples, **It is impossible but that offences will come: but woe unto him, through whom they come!**

Does everybody get that? Jesus said, offences are going to come. You know sin is invertible. It is impossible that offences are not going to come. However, He makes the statement here, "...woe unto him, through whom they come!" Do you know what He is saying here? He is telling us here that He is pronouncing judgment upon the individual that brings the offences towards His people. He says, He is pronouncing a woe, or a judgment. His wrath is going to be poured out upon those that will bring or participate in the offence. He says here, "but woe unto him." Those that bring the offences, those that do the offences; it is a very serious thing when that takes place. We don't think much about it sometimes. Sometimes we think that we can just do anything or say anything, or whatever comes to our mind.

I've heard people say that before. "If it's in my mind I just might as well say it." Well, that is stupidity. If you say everything that is in your mind then you are probably going to lose some teeth one of these days, and me too. We can't say everything that comes in our mind. We can't say everything that is in our minds. We can't do that.

Here is the thing. Jesus is pronouncing a woe, or a judgment upon the individual that is bringing the offence, or sinning against people.

Luke 17:1 Then said he unto the disciples, **It is impossible but that offences will come: but woe unto him, through whom they come!**

Get this.

Luke 17:2 **It were better for him that a millstone were hanged about his neck, and he**

cast into the sea, than that he should offend one of these little ones.

Now that is a pretty serious thing. Don't you think? It is a pretty serious thing that Jesus is saying here. A millstone wasn't a little stone that the ladies used from time to time, during that time, to grind up a little bit of grain, or a little bit of something. However, this millstone that they used, and put them together and put a pole...something similar that we used when we used to make sorghum molasses. We had grinders that did that. These folks had big stones. They would position them and put them in a way and put a pole on them so that some kind of an animal, usually a mule, when you look at the Greek word here; and they would walk around in circles. As they walked they would turn these stones. As they turned the stones, they would feed their grain into it and it would grind the grain. These stones were huge, huge...stones. He is telling them here that the judgment that is going to come to those that brings offences to people.

Again, it is not something we say sometimes. A lot of people will try to lead us into stuff that is not right. Many times—not everybody that goes to church is saved, not everybody that goes to church has your best in mind, not everybody that sits in the pews, worldwide in churches, are people that are born again. God knows who they are. I don't know who they are. Do you know what satan does? Satan plants people. God has wheat and satan has tares. He plants people. He plants people in and around our space to try to get us to be led off astray.

Sometimes, the sin that people commits and tries to lead us into, is very horrible sin. There are those that wants to cause us to stumble. There are people that are stumbling themselves and what they try to do is lead others into stumbling. They don't want to stumble by themselves, but they want to lead others into stumbling. This is some of the people that Jesus is talking about. When we cause our way and become a stumbling block, it is more that just words; our own life can become a stumbling block for people.

That was a big problem in Corinth, when you look at Corinth and the church at Corinth. Some of the things that the mature Christians were doing in Corinth were causing the young people, those that had not been saved for very long; it was causing them some problems. Do you remember reading that in the book? They became a stumbling block for them. Again, it is very important for you and me to make sure the life that we are living is a right kind of life. Again, just because we think it is alright, doesn't mean that it is alright.

People lay stumbling blocks for other people. Sometimes, we don't even understand it sometimes. Sometimes, it is because of the language we carry, the language we use. We may be in a conversation around people and they may be using all kinds of language and we just enter in with the language and there are people that are around. Then that becomes a stumbling block for a lot of people. You might say that doesn't but it does.

I've said this many times before. There were many stumbling blocks that were laid before my dad. However, one of the big stumbling blocks was how people that he worked around for 30 to 50 years lived, and said that they were Christians. That was a big stumbling block for him. It is to people. I have talked to people that some of our families here, is a big stumbling block to them because of things that some are participating in.

The enemy is always there and always trying to get us, to trip us up. He always wants to lay a stumbling block. There is always someone around that will try to get us to enter into a conversation, where they are trying to get us to stumble, or maybe trying to get us to lay stumbling block for someone else. The whole thing is about trying to seduce us and trying to seduce into sin so that when people looks at us; they say, they are no better than I am. I am just as good as they are because of what they are doing. We become a stumbling block for people. A stumbling block is anything that will cause someone to stumble, or to trip. Sometimes, it is us. sometimes it is people. Sometimes is our words or actions; what we do or what we say. Sometimes it is what we don't do.

Church attendance is a big thing to unsaved people. Do you know that? They look at that and they see; they know when I come to church. My neighbors over here know exactly where I am at. Your neighbors know exactly where you are at. Amen! That happens. Sometimes that becomes a great big stumbling block for people because of our lack of church attendance sometimes. I know I am talking to you all that are here. That still yet the way it is. Sometimes people wants to enter us in and get us into issues having to do with grumbling, complaining, criticizing, and taking sides against other people, being worldly and prideful, living sinful immoral lives, and cursing and using all kinds of filthy talk. We think it is funny sometimes. However, it is not funny at all. We become a stumbling a lot of times to people. It is a big hurdle for some people to get over sometimes because of how we live and what we do, and what we say, and what we don't do. We become a tremendous stumbling block for people.

Jesus said—get this—if we are someone—and the people here He is talking about—there is no doubt in my mind that He was talking about the Pharisees, and the scribes, people who had become a tremendous stumbling block to so many in Israel. However, if that is how we live and that is the direction we go in life, and not only do we stumble and we lead others into stumbling. When we lead others into sin it is a very serious thing, guys. I don't know that there is anything in the scripture, any more serious—I mean this—I don't think there is anything in the scriptures that will...that the wrath of God will be any greater against than people that leads other people into sin. He calls them little ones. In God's eyes everyone of us are little ones. Amen! Sometimes people are more cunning and shrewd than we think they are. Sometimes we don't see it. We pat them on the back and we do all kinds of stuff and buddy up with them. While all along we don't see what they are trying to do to us. When that takes place and when people not only stumble and are stumbling themselves, but lead others to stumble and

fall; Jesus makes this statement, “it would be better for him, for that person that is causing other people to stumble, it would be better for him that big, huge millstone—probably weighed hundreds and hundreds of pounds—it would be better for that individual that if that millstone was tied around his neck and cast into the sea than for him to offend one of my little ones.

Do you think that is serious? Do you think God really meant that? Do you think that Jesus Christ when He said that just a few days before He died; do you think He really meant that? He meant that. It is serious stuff when we lead people into stumbling. We lay the path for them. We help them along. We plot the course for them. It is serious stuff. Could you imagine having something tied around your neck hundreds and hundreds—do you know what that means? When Jesus is saying this, there is no way you could swim with it. There is no way. When you are thrown in there, you are going to the bottom. Then that is where you are at.

Jesus said that would be better for you to do that than it would be for you to offend one of my little ones. Again, we are all little ones. It doesn't matter if we have been saved 5 years or 50 years, we are all little ones in God's eyes. When people lead us, when people leads people; they stumble, they fall. They become stumbling blocks. They make other people stumble. There is a terrible judgment coming. I don't know that you understand that. I don't know if you ever give it much thought or not. However, God takes seriously people that are trying to live for Him. God those people very seriously. When we lay stumbling blocks for them, when we try to trip them up, when we try to get them to enter into what we are doing, so that we can get them to be tripped up as we are. God takes that very seriously and He is going to deal with that.

He wants people to know that that is going to happen. There are going to be people who are going to come along that are going to try to trip you up. There are going to be people that are going to come along that wants you enter into their conversations, whether it is...whatever the conversation is. Whatever the activity, or whatever the lifestyle is; there will be people that will come along that will try to get you to come on over and live as they live, and do as they do.

Jesus wants these guys to understand...watch what is going on. Pay attention to what is happening because there is going to be people that are going to try to cause you to stumble. There are going to be offences that are going to come. You can't get around that. He says. But also, be alert. He also pronounces judgment on those that were going to bring the offence.

Luke 17:3 Take heed to yourselves: If thy brother trespass against thee, rebuke him; and if he repent, forgive him.

Do you know what that means? It means to watch what you are doing. Since that is going to happen, since there are going to be people that are going to try to mislead you, that is going to try to trip you up and make you fall and stumble; take heed to yourself. Watch what you are doing. Watch the conversations that you enter into. Watch who

you loaf with. Watch who you pat on the back and say it is okay. Watch the things that you participate in. You may want to be like everybody else. You may want to fit into the crowd, the scene or whatever it is. He says, take heed to yourself. Watch what you are doing. There is always someone out there somewhere that is trying to trip us up, trying to make us stumble and fall. In what we do and what we say, and the conversations that we enter into, and the places we go sometimes, and the places we need to go that we don't go; it can become a tremendous stumbling block to our family, to our friends, to our children, to our grandchildren, to our husbands, to our wives—whatever. It can be a tremendous stumbling block. Also, we can become a stumbling block. I don't want to be that. Do you? I don't want to cause anybody to stumble and fall.

Have there been many times in life that I couldn't tell you—I probably couldn't this high the times that I had to go back and say that I'm sorry. I shouldn't have got mad. I shouldn't have said that. I shouldn't have done that. There have been in times in my life that I had to do that. I'm sure that if I live more than another day, or two, or three, or four; there will be other times that I'll say, I'm sorry.

Here is the thing. I don't ever—do you know what I have done before too? I have apologized to people that I really didn't owe an apology. Do you know why? Because I wanted them to understand that I could forgive and I could forget and move on. In doing that and forgiving; Jesus here—and that is the next part of the lesson here is forgiveness—Jesus said, take heed, watch who you loaf with, watch who you are around, watch who you invite into your space. Amen! Because not everybody that comes into your space is somebody that you need sometimes. Do you know what the enemy will do? The enemy will plant people in your space. He will bring people close by. He will bring people that seems like they are just nice and smiley and just the greatest thing that ever came along. While all along trying to lead us into something and get us to enter into conversations, and activities and participate in things that are absolutely not right. Do you know what it does?

Many years ago, before I ever got saved, there was a young man. Nobody here would know him. He would loaf with me every now and then. I didn't always do what was right. He would—we would go somewhere and do some stuff. We wouldn't ask him to but he would just sort of fall in with the crowd. We do this or that, whatever we were doing. It wasn't long—this was back when we were 18 or 20 years old. It wasn't long—and I knew who he was. I knew where he lived. It wasn't long until he started missing church. I know this. I have watched it. It wasn't long that he started missing more church. It wasn't long until completely quit going at all. Today, I could take you to his house and you could talk to him and probably nothing in his life today would resemble church at all. Do you know why? Because he started loafing with the wrong crowd. He started participating in the wrong stuff. He started hanging with things that were causing him to stumble and fall.

You might say that doesn't happen. Well, it does happen. As we get closer to the return of Jesus Christ, do you know what is going to happen? It is going to happen

more and more and more. The more we get attracted to this world and all the things going on in this world—we have all kinds of games, and all kinds of projects, and all kinds of things we can all do. However, as we get closer the return of Jesus Christ, there are going to be more things that the enemy throws into our path that are going to try to make us stumble.

Listen. We need to take heed to ourselves. We need to be looking. We need to be aware. We need to be watching what we are doing. If we will do that, God will take care of us.

Come and pray—