



5 DAY DEVOTIONAL

SERIES: THE LURE OF SATAN

Sermon 1: Satan's Lure

SPEAKER: REV. CHRIS SMITH | 7/13/2025 | PAGE 1 OF 5

Day 1: Recognizing the Inevitable

Devotional: Life comes with a guarantee that isn't particularly comforting: we will face offenses. Jesus didn't sugarcoat this reality for His disciples, and we shouldn't be surprised when it happens to us. Whether it's a hurtful comment, a betrayal from someone close, or an injustice that leaves us reeling, offense is part of our human experience. What makes these moments so challenging isn't just the pain itself, but how they threaten our peace. When we lose our peace with God, we become vulnerable in every other area of life. The stability we need to face trials evaporates when offense takes root in our hearts. Today, acknowledge that offense is inevitable, but your response to it isn't predetermined. You have a choice in how you handle the hurts that come your way. Will you allow them to rob you of peace, or will you recognize them as opportunities to grow in grace? Remember that Jesus didn't just warn about offense—He experienced it Himself in ways we can hardly imagine. Yet He maintained perfect peace with the Father throughout. That same peace is available to you, even in your most painful moments.

Bible Verse: "Indeed, all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted." - 2 Timothy 3:2

Reflection Question: What current situation in your life has the potential to rob you of your peace with God if you don't handle it with wisdom and grace?

Quote: Jesus warned his disciples that you're going to experience offense during your time. You're going to experience those times whenever things don't go your way. You're going to be offended by people, either a person or a group of people. You're going to be offended by their words or their actions. It's going to come just as sure as you're here today.

Prayer: Father, thank You for warning me about the reality of offense. Help me recognize when I'm being baited into losing my peace. When offenses come, remind me that You've already prepared me for this moment. Grant me the wisdom to respond in ways that honor You rather than satisfying my flesh. In Jesus' name, amen.

SATAN'S LURE

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Day 2: The Root and Depth of Offense

Devotional: At the heart of most offenses lies a simple but devastating reality: selfishness. When people prioritize their own agendas, needs, and desires above others, pain inevitably follows. We've all been on both sides of this equation—causing hurt when we put ourselves first and feeling wounded when others do the same. What makes offense particularly painful is its relationship to proximity. The closer we are to someone, the deeper the hurt when they wound us. A stranger's criticism might roll off our backs, but when a family member, close friend, or fellow believer betrays our trust, the pain cuts to our core. This is why church hurts can be so devastating. We expect the world to disappoint us, but we hope for better from those who share our faith. When that expectation is shattered, the temptation to withdraw or retaliate can be overwhelming. Today, consider both sides of offense—times you've been hurt and times you may have hurt others through your own selfishness. Recognizing our capacity to both give and receive offense helps us approach these situations with greater humility and compassion.

Bible Verse: "My closest friend, whom I trusted, the one who ate my bread, has lifted up his heel against me." - Psalms 55:12-14

Reflection Question: How has a close relationship that turned painful affected your willingness to be vulnerable with others, and what might God want to heal in that area?

Quote: The closer we are to a person who has offended us, the deeper the hurt. We see that in families, we see that in relationships, we see that in church. The closer the person, the deeper the hurt.

Prayer: Lord, heal the places where I've been deeply wounded by those close to me. Forgive me for the times my selfishness has hurt others. Help me see beyond my pain to recognize the humanity in those who have offended me. Give me the courage to remain open to meaningful relationships despite past hurts. In Jesus' name, amen.

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Day 3: Breaking Free from Offense's Trap

Devotional: Satan is strategic. He knows that if he can entice us into holding onto offense, he can effectively neutralize our spiritual effectiveness. Bitterness, anger, and unforgiveness become spiritual chains that bind us, preventing our souls from prospering and our minds from thinking clearly. When we're caught in offense's trap, our thoughts continually circle back to the hurt. We replay scenarios, rehearse conversations, and reinforce our victim mentality. This mental treadmill doesn't lead anywhere productive—it simply keeps us bound to the past and unable to move forward in faith. The enemy's plan is simple but effective: keep us focused on our wounds rather than on God's healing power. When we cooperate with bitterness, we unwittingly become participants in Satan's strategy rather than God's redemptive work. The path to freedom begins with recognizing the trap for what it is. Offense isn't just a natural response to hurt—it's a spiritual battleground where our enemy seeks to gain advantage. By choosing forgiveness, we're not excusing wrong behavior; we're refusing to let that behavior define our future or determine our spiritual condition.

Bible Verse: "And the Lord's servant must not be quarrelsome but kind to everyone, able to teach, patiently enduring evil, correcting his opponents with gentleness. God may perhaps grant them repentance leading to a knowledge of the truth, and they may come to their senses and escape from the snare of the devil, after being captured by him to do his will." - 2 Timothy 2:24-26

Reflection Question: What specific offense are you currently holding onto that might be functioning as a spiritual trap in your life, and what would taking the first step toward freedom look like?

Quote: Offense is a tool of the devil to bring people into captivity against that bitterness, that anger, that unforgiveness is like a ball and chain. Your soul will not prosper. Your mind is always on that offense. You can't think positively. You cannot think creatively. You cannot think with a good outlook.

Prayer: Heavenly Father, expose the places where I've been ensnared by offense. I don't want to participate in the enemy's plan through my bitterness. Set me free from the mental treadmill of rehearsing hurts and plotting responses. Replace my anger with Your peace, my bitterness with Your joy. I choose to step out of Satan's trap today. In Jesus' name, amen.

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Day 4: The Purifying Power of Trials

Devotional: God doesn't waste our pain. When we face offenses and trials, He's working on something precious—our faith. Like gold that requires intense heat to remove impurities, our faith is refined through difficult experiences that reveal what we truly believe. When everything is going well, it's easy to proclaim trust in God. But when we're betrayed, misunderstood, or treated unjustly, our true spiritual condition becomes evident. Do we really believe God is sovereign? Do we trust His justice? Can we forgive as we've been forgiven? The storm doesn't create the weakness in a building; it reveals what was already there. Similarly, trials don't create character flaws—they expose areas that God wants to strengthen and transform. This exposure, though painful, is actually a gift that allows us to surrender these areas to God's healing work. Rather than resenting the trial or focusing solely on the person who hurt you, consider what God might be revealing about your own heart. Areas of pride, unforgiveness, or self-righteousness that remained hidden in comfortable times often surface during conflict. These revelations become opportunities for growth when we respond with humility.

Bible Verse: "In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, so that the tested genuineness of your faith—more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ." - 1 Peter 1:6-7

Reflection Question: What quality of character or aspect of faith is God currently developing in you through a difficult relationship or situation?

Quote: Our faith is tried through trials. God allows us to go through difficulties to purify our faith. Whenever gold is purified, it takes the heat to do that.

Prayer: Lord, help me see my current trial as a refining process rather than just a painful experience. Show me what You're developing in me through this difficulty. I surrender the areas of weakness that have been exposed to Your transforming power. Make me more like Jesus through this process. Thank You for not wasting my pain but using it for my spiritual growth. In Jesus' name, amen.

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Day 5: Following Jesus' Example of Forgiveness

Devotional: No one has ever been more unjustly treated than Jesus. He was perfect in every way, yet He endured mockery, betrayal, physical torture, and ultimately crucifixion. If anyone had the right to be offended and demand justice, it was Him. Yet His response models the path to freedom that we're called to follow. Even in His most agonizing moments, Jesus didn't focus on evening the score or planning revenge. Instead, He prayed, "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do." This wasn't a passive resignation but an active choice to extend mercy rather than judgment. Before we continue in unforgiveness, we need to remember our own need for forgiveness. None of us is without sin. We've all needed mercy, and we continue to need it daily. The humility that comes from seeing ourselves accurately—as forgiven sinners rather than righteous victims—creates the foundation for extending forgiveness to others. Today, choose to follow Jesus' example by praying for those who have hurt you. This doesn't mean the relationship will be instantly restored or that all consequences should be removed. It means you're releasing the offense to God rather than allowing it to poison your heart.

Bible Verse: "Why do you see the speck that is in your brother's eye, but do not notice the log that is in your own eye? Or how can you say to your brother, 'Let me take the speck out of your eye,' when there is the log in your own eye? You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take the speck out of your brother's eye." - Matthew 7:3-5

Reflection Question: What would it look like to genuinely pray for the good of someone who has deeply hurt you, and how might that prayer begin to change your heart toward them?

Quote: Jesus modeled how you deal with offense. Those soldiers, they literally pulled his beard out. They beat him so bad that Isaiah prophesied, said, he's going to look so bad when they get through with him. You're not going to know who he is. But Jesus didn't say, the day is coming, you'll stand before me and this will get evened out. What did he say? Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do.

Prayer: Father, I confess that forgiveness doesn't come naturally to me. Thank You for Jesus' perfect example of extending mercy even in the face of extreme injustice. Remind me of the forgiveness I've received when I'm tempted to withhold it from others. Help me pray sincerely for those who have hurt me, not that I might change them, but that You might change me. Make my heart pliable and aligned with Your will. In Jesus' name, amen.

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