

WEDGES

Luke 22:1-4

Now the Feast of Unleavened Bread drew near, which is called Passover. ²And the chief priests and the scribes sought how they might kill Jesus. ³Then Satan entered Judas, who was numbered among the twelve. ⁴So he went his way and conferred with the chief priests and captains, how he might betray Jesus to them.

I know that anyone who's ever read that verse cringes at the fact that somehow satan entered Judas.

That's one of the most disturbing verses in the Bible in my opinion.

How did that happen?

How did the devil gain access in the life of a disciple?

If you zoom out and look at this story in its entirety, you can see how it happened.

This same story took place in John 13, and if you read John 12 and then read John 13, you then see what happened.

In John 12 Jesus is making His way to Jerusalem.

He stops in Bethany to eat with Mary, Martha and Lazarus.

A former prostitute enters the scene, and she breaks an expensive bottle of perfume.

She anoints Jesus with it and Judas gets upset.

Judas rebukes not only her, but also Jesus for allowing her to do this.

Judas complains that the perfume was wasted.

What one person called worship, another person called wasting funds.

What one person called ministry, someone else called a lack of stewardship.

What was the difference between those two perspectives? The heart.

Because Judas voiced his complaint publicly, Jesus rebuked him publicly.

And it was in that moment that satan found a way to get into Judas' heart.

If you read the story in Mark's Gospel you can see the timeline.

Mark 14:6-10

⁶But Jesus said, "Let her alone. Why do you trouble her? She has done a good work for Me. ⁷For you have the poor with you always, and whenever you wish you may do them good; but Me you do not have always. ⁸She has done what she could. She has come beforehand to anoint My body for burial.

⁹Assuredly, I say to you, wherever this gospel is preached in the whole world, what this woman has done will also be told as a memorial to her." ¹⁰Then Judas Iscariot, one of the twelve, went to the chief priests to betray Him to them.

The enemy gains access into our lives through offenses.

That wedge becomes a doorway.

My grandfather heated his home in the winter by using a woodburning stove in the basement.

Every year, he would cut down a giant oak tree, split the wood and use it for fuel in that stove.

He was the one who taught me how destructive a wedge can be.

One little thing can split the strongest of trees.

There are nearly 1,200 chapters in the Bible. (show picture)

The first conflict between two people came in chapter 3. (show picture)

Adam blamed Eve for his sin and Eve blamed the serpent.

It only took three chapters to split a marriage.

It only took 4 chapters for someone to kill somebody. (show picture)

The first murder took place in Genesis 4.

Cain killed Able because Able's offering was better than his.

There were only four people on the planet, and one of them killed 25% of the world's population over an offense.

The enemy is so good at creating offenses, that he convinced a 1/3 of the angels that God was doing a poor job managing the universe and he could do it better.

There's only one thing worse than an offense and that's a secondhand offence.

A second hand offense of when you heard about what happened to so and so, but you didn't see it and you didn't hear it yourself, and even though you know there's two sides to every story you believe what you hear, and their offense becomes your offense, and now you're trap in a snare that wasn't even set for you in the first place.

Remember, if they will talk to you, they will talk about you!

A few weeks ago, I was on a call with Pastor Mark Pettus.

Mark is now pastoring The Church of the Highlands, which is the second largest church in America. They have a weekly attendance of over 60,000 people. Someone asked Mark, "What's the biggest challenge of leading one of the largest churches in America?"

I thought he would say something about developing leaders.

Or creating systems to shepherd a church of that size.

Maybe something about money.

But here's what he said...

“The greatest challenge is keeping my heart clean of offenses.”

Let me give you some good news.

Do you know how you can tell that God’s about to do something special in your life?

An offense will occur.

Every time God gets ready to take you to the next level, the enemy will try to cause an offense.

And here’s why?

You can’t move forward and be offended at the same time.

Every time, Melissa and I hit a rough patch in our marriage or within our family, it was right before a giant breakthrough.

I came here today to tell A Church Called Home and every individual in this room, that God is about to blow the roof off this house and your house as well. Be on guard. Don’t let the devil give you a wedgie. Let’s bind together and keep our eyes on the harvest.