

“4 Sermonettes!”

1. **Intro:**

- 1.1. **Mouse Trap** – (invented by Sir Hiram Stephen Maxim) - A very simple device made up of a flat wooden **platform**; A wire acting as a **hammer**; a **spring** that gives the hammer the quickness it needs; a **metal bar** that holds the hammer back; & a sensitive little **catch**; **that** when you touch it with the slightest pressure it releases the metal bar, and the hammer comes slamming down on its victim.
 - 1.1.1. There are many things in this world that trap not mice but men!
 - 1.1.2. There are traps of **unforgiveness**...which “sever” relationships.
 - 1.1.2.1. And thus imprison countless Christians in its jaws!
- 1.2. Well, this is the last teaching of a long Sabbath day that started in 14:1.
- 1.3. So Luke names **4 qualities** of a **true disciple**: Offences; Forgiveness; Faith; & Service.
 - 1.3.1. Note discipleship’s link between **true faith, & necessary obedience**.

2. **4 SERMONETTES! (1-10)**

- 2.1. **[1] OFFENSIVE OFFENCES!** (1,2)
- 2.2. The word *offenses* means “occasions to stumble.” (stumbling blocks)
 - 2.2.1. The Gk. word gives us our English word “*scandalize*(skandolon)” and it originally referred to **the stick that tripped a snare or a trap.** (mouse trap)
- 2.3. **The warning** - Yes, offenses **will** come...but woe to him through whom they do come! (responsibility)
 - 2.3.1. 1st it is **inevitable** they will come.
 - 2.3.2. 2nd there is a **responsibility** from whom they do come though.
 - 2.3.2.1. **Inevitability** does not remove **responsibility!**
- 2.4. **Beware** of leading others astray. [not limited to children, but new believers also]
- 2.5. **Beware** of doing anything that would cause others to fall into sin.
 - 2.5.1. “**But I have this liberty!**”...but they might not!
- 2.6. The **woe** isn’t defined...it’s not the millstone, that’s the way to escape the woe!
 - 2.6.1. (i.e. the easier way out!)
 - 2.6.2. Jesus leaves the woe undescribed, he leaves it nameless. 😞
- 2.7. **Millstone** - Like being fit for a pair of concrete shoes!
- 2.8. We are to be **stepping stones** not **stumbling blocks** to others.

- 2.9. **[2] FOREVER FORGIVING!** (3,4)
- 2.10. No break in Jesus speaking, he is stating the case from the other side.
2.10.1. We talked about the offender, now the offended!
- 2.11. **Rebuke him** - It's much easier to **keep still** when someone sins against us, and to try to hide the pain.
2.11.1. We sometimes even think we're being **spiritual** by trying to **ignore the wrong**. But failure to be honest, when there *is* something wrong, isn't God's way.
- 2.12. **Forgive!** - Our old self dwells on *slights and hurts* and takes a perverse pleasure in self-pity and in righteous indignation.
2.12.1. No limits are to be placed on forgiveness!
2.12.2. "*What if I'm taken advantage of?*" – What if Jesus asked that same question right before the cross?
2.12.3. God absorbed the hurt of our sin on the cross, & offers us forgiveness & reconciliation.
2.12.4. He's not going to "get away with murder"...maybe get away w/it from you, but NOT from God...the woe still hangs around his neck!
- 2.13. Forgiveness is a command; one is to forgive from one's **heart**, overruling one's **feelings** if necessary - since this too goes against the grain.
- 2.14. It is not likely that a believer would put a stumbling block 7 x's in one day before you, but we **must be ready** to forgive that often.
2.14.1. Forgiveness should be a **habit**, not a **battle**.
- 2.15. When people sin repeatedly, giving up on them is easy; but we must forgive them & trust God to work in their lives.
2.15.1. Remember if someone puts a stumbling block before you, your 1st duty is to **rebuke** them. If they **repent**, **forgive**.
2.15.2. **If I do that, I am seeing to it that I'm no stumbling block in the way of the one who put the stumbling block before me!**¹
- 2.16. Do note "**if they repent**"! Forgiveness is based on his repentance.
2.16.1. We are not to forgive a man if there is no sign of repentance. (like God)
2.16.2. But note, if he "**says**" he repents (vs.4 – "**saying**" i.e. not nec "**showing**").
- 2.17. (Morgan) "**Better to secure the sanctity & the beauty of our own character by being ready to forgive 7 x's, even though the man is not sincere, than by refusing forgiveness to a truly repentant soul.**"
- 2.18. We must be **stepping stones** & not **stumbling blocks**.

¹ G.Campbell Morgan; pg.195.

- 2.19. **[3] MOUNTAIN MOVING FAITH!** (5,6)
- 2.20. The demands of discipleship are great. The disciples recognized they needed **divine help** to fulfill such demands.
- 2.20.1. No wonder the disciples cried out to Jesus, *“if we have to live like that with people, then, Lord, increase our faith!”*
- 2.20.2. You would expect the disciples to say, *“Increase our love!”* But forgiveness comes from **faith** in God’s Word.
- 2.20.3. **A grenade** doesn’t ask for “more power” it just says, “pull the pin”!
- 2.20.4. **To make an Atomic Bomb** you don’t need bigger atoms, just to split them!
- 2.21. (6) Jesus’ answer clarified the nature of true faith.
- 2.21.1. The issue isn’t **greater** faith. {not **quantity** of faith, but **quality**!}
- 2.21.2. **What is there in a grain of mustard seed that is distinctive?** Life!
- 2.22. **Faith** is like a **seed**: it seems **small & weak**, but it has **life** in it.
- 2.22.1. If it is **cultivated**, it will **grow & release power**.
- 2.22.2. **Story** – A man who was buried in a tomb that requested a great mass of **granite** over the top of his grave when he died. He had said if there ever was a resurrection it might be certain he should never rise! The granite stone weighing tons is there...but split in two! - Before they could place that large granite stone on the grave a bird happened to drop an acorn right there. An oak tree sprang up & the living power of the acorn split the granite in two. [small & weak, but has life!]
- 2.22.3. If you have **living** faith (no matter how small) you will be able to forgive your brother 7 x’s.
- 2.22.3.1. You’ll see to it U place no stumbling block in the way of others.
- 2.23. **We need faith for many areas of our life.**
- 2.23.1. [1] **Faith to be Stepping Stones & not stumbling blocks!**
[2] **Faith to Forgive!** [3] **Faith Unleashed!** [4] **Faith to Serve!**
- 2.24. It’s not up to us to conjure up an increase of faith, but instead...
- 2.24.1. Faith opens the way for God to act out of HIS *limitless resources*.
- 2.25. If our faith is like the seed, alive and growing,...nothing will be impossible!
- 2.26. **Q:** **What do you need ripped out of your life trunk, limbs, & roots?**
- 2.26.1. Be pulled up by the roots.
- 2.27. **[4] THE DUTY OF SERVANTS!** (7-10)
- 2.28. **“And”** shows connection.
- 2.28.1. If you have that kind of faith, don’t let it turn into **pride**!
- 2.28.2. You can’t lift your chin in the air, strut with pride, & be braggadocios!
- 2.28.3. To **rebuke & forgive** is our simply our duty!

- 2.29. Jesus knew how to **balance** one truth with another, so that His disciples would not go to extremes.
- 2.29.1. The **miraculous faith** of vs.6 must be **balanced** with **faithful day-by-day “ordinary service”** that may not be exciting.
- 2.29.2. This servant plows, takes care of cattle, even cooks!
- 2.29.3. “**Unprofitable**” means “*without need*,” i.e. nobody owes him anything.
- 2.29.4. God does not “owe” us rewards; we have only done our duty.
- 2.30. Jesus had given His disciples a *command*. When a person sins, he is to be rebuked and forgiven.
- 2.30.1. This is no optional activity, just for persons with exceptional faith!
- 2.30.2. When it comes to living by Jesus’ commands, the issue is not one of **faith** but of **obedience!**
- 2.30.3. **We can never draw back from doing God’s revealed will because we feel we have inadequate faith.**
- 2.31. Note the demand for personal application (3,10)
- 2.32. God wants the **absence of pride** expected of those who know that obeying him is a matter of duty.
- 2.33. It takes **faith** to do your duty, whether tending to a field or a flock, or preparing a meal.