

## **Bait of Satan 4. How to Handle Unfair Treatment**

If you are reading *The Bait of Satan* book with this study series, read Chapters 7–10 afterwards.

### **Step 1. Pause in Yahweh's presence together.**

**Read:** Romans 6:1-4 three times slowly.

**Listen to:** Keith Green's "Rushing Wind."

### **Step 2. Reflect on a scripture.**

In God have I put my trust and confident reliance; I will not be afraid. What can man do to me? — Psalm 56:11 AMP

Do not retaliate with evil, regardless of the evil brought against you. Try to do what is good and right and honorable as agreed upon by all people. 18 If it is within your power, make peace with all people. 19 Again, my loved ones, do not seek revenge; instead, allow God's wrath to make sure justice is served. Turn it over to Him. For the Scriptures say, "Revenge is Mine. I will settle all scores." Romans 12:17-19 (Voice translation).

When we are mistreated, we can be tempted many times to get even. Again and again, God reminds us in His Word that He will repay us as long as we don't take matters into our own hands.

- 1) While some verses in Scripture are uplifting, others are considerably harder to swallow. When you run across passages like these, what do you usually do? Do you choose to believe what you read? Or do you read into Scripture what you already believe? Do you ignore these verses altogether? Or gloss over them quickly? What should be our response to the more difficult passages of truth?

- 2) In your own words, how would you define unfair treatment? What kind is the most difficult for you to deal with? Why?
- 3) God has promised to repay those who have harshly treated us. Sometimes, His repayment doesn't come in the form of punishment—it comes in the form of salvation of the person who has wronged us. If this were to happen to an enemy of yours, what would be your reaction? Why? What does this say about the condition of your heart?

### **Step 3. Ask.**

The call to forgive and be kind to those who have mistreated us is beyond us. To do so requires us offending our ego and sinful desires to say "Yes" to the Spirit.

For issues that are long-term or where the hurt is deep, this may be something you need to ask for God's help again and again. God knows this; he knows our limitations (Psalm 103:14), and as we reflect at the start of this study, we see that his grace is bigger than our sin. He has promised mercy for us (and those we struggle with) is renewed every day (Lamentations 3:22-23). So don't give up calling for his help.

Is there a relationship you need to bring to the Holy Spirit? How would you want to ask for help?

### **Step 4. Yield.**

**Do you have a sense of what you need to yield to the Holy Spirit? Is it:**

- Revenge
- Unforgiveness
- Control
- To defend

Spend some time thanking your heavenly Father for his mercy to you. Then yield your will to His will. If the Holy Spirit has shown you a place where you have felt unfairly treated, consider the prayer below and hand over the person and situation to the Father.

*Father, I have shared my heart with You and written down what (person's name)  
\_\_\_\_\_ did to hurt me.*

*Please forgive me for holding on to any unforgiveness toward them. I want to forgive them, but I need Your strength to do it.*

*So, as an act of my will—not my feelings—I release them into Your hands.*

*I trust You to deal with them in Your time and way, and I will not avenge myself. Please have mercy on them and give them a heart that will hear and respond to Your voice.*

*Please heal the hurts in my soul—the painful memories and feelings that have remained. Give me the grace to trust You with my life and submit to the leaders You place over me.*

*Your Word says that You'll work all things together for my good because I love You and am pursuing Your purpose for my life (see Romans 8:28). I'm trusting You to faithfully fulfill Your promise.*

*In Jesus's name, Amen!*