

**Scandalized! – The Danger of Taking Up Offenses**  
*Or (for Star Wars fans): “It’s a Trap!” (Admiral Ackbar)*

Isaiah 28:16

So this is what the Sovereign Lord says: “See, I lay a stone in Zion, a tested stone, a precious cornerstone for a sure foundation; the one who relies on it will never be stricken with panic.

Isaiah 8:13-14

<sup>13</sup> The Lord Almighty is the one you are to regard as holy, he is the one you are to fear, he is the one you are to dread. <sup>14</sup> He will be a holy place; for both Israel and Judah he will be a stone that causes people to stumble and a rock that makes them fall. And for the people of Jerusalem he will be a trap and a snare.

Luke 2:34-35

<sup>34</sup> Then Simeon blessed them and said to Mary, his mother: “This child is destined to cause the falling and rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be spoken against, <sup>35</sup> so that the thoughts of many hearts will be revealed. And a sword will pierce your own soul too.”

## Skandalon/Skandalizomai

### When it doesn’t look like you imagined it

Matthew 11:1-6

<sup>1</sup> After Jesus had finished instructing his twelve disciples, he went on from there to teach and preach in the towns of Galilee. <sup>2</sup> When John, who was in prison, heard about the deeds of the Messiah, he sent his disciples <sup>3</sup> to ask him, “Are you the one who is to come, or should we expect someone else?” <sup>4</sup> Jesus replied, “Go back and report to John what you hear and see: <sup>5</sup> The blind receive sight, the lame walk, those who have leprosy are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the good news is proclaimed to the poor. <sup>6</sup> Blessed is anyone who does not **stumble** on account of me.”

### When you think you see

Mark 6:1-6

<sup>1</sup> Jesus left there and went to his hometown, accompanied by his disciples. <sup>2</sup> When the Sabbath came, he began to teach in the synagogue, and many who heard him were amazed. “Where did this man get these things?” they asked. “What’s this wisdom that has been given him? What are these remarkable miracles he is performing? <sup>3</sup> Isn’t this the carpenter? Isn’t this Mary’s son and the brother of James, Joseph, Judas and Simon? Aren’t his sisters here with us?” And they took **offense** at him. <sup>4</sup> Jesus said to them, “A prophet is not without honor except in his own town, among his relatives and in his own home.” <sup>5</sup> He could not do any miracles there, except lay his hands on a few sick people and heal them. <sup>6</sup> He was amazed at their lack of faith.

### Stopping up power

### Traditions and ways

Matthew 15:1-14

<sup>1</sup> Then some Pharisees and teachers of the law came to Jesus from Jerusalem and asked, <sup>2</sup> “Why do your disciples break the tradition of the elders? They don’t wash their hands before they eat!” <sup>3</sup> Jesus replied, “And why do you break the command of God for the sake of your tradition? <sup>4</sup> For God said, ‘Honor your father and mother’ and ‘Anyone who curses their father or mother is to be put to death.’ <sup>5</sup> But you say that if anyone declares that what might have been used to help their father or mother is ‘devoted to God,’ <sup>6</sup> they are not to ‘honor their father or mother’ with it. Thus you nullify the word of God for the sake of your tradition. <sup>7</sup> You hypocrites! Isaiah was right when he prophesied about you: <sup>8</sup> “These people honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me. <sup>9</sup> They worship me in vain; their teachings

are merely human rules.”<sup>10</sup> Jesus called the crowd to him and said, “Listen and understand.<sup>11</sup> What goes into someone’s mouth does not defile them, but what comes out of their mouth, that is what defiles them.”<sup>12</sup> Then the disciples came to him and asked, “Do you know that the Pharisees were **offended** when they heard this?”<sup>13</sup> He replied, “Every plant that my heavenly Father has not planted will be pulled up by the roots.<sup>14</sup> Leave them; they are blind guides. If the blind lead the blind, both will fall into a pit.”

### Not deterred from food that satisfies

John 6:48-69

<sup>48</sup> I am the bread of life. <sup>49</sup> Your ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness, yet they died. <sup>50</sup> But here is the bread that comes down from heaven, which anyone may eat and not die. <sup>51</sup> I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Whoever eats this bread will live forever. This bread is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world.” <sup>52</sup> Then the Jews began to argue sharply among themselves, “How can this man give us his flesh to eat?” <sup>53</sup> Jesus said to them, “Very truly I tell you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you. <sup>54</sup> Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise them up at the last day. <sup>55</sup> For my flesh is real food and my blood is real drink. <sup>56</sup> Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me, and I in them. <sup>57</sup> Just as the living Father sent me and I live because of the Father, so the one who feeds on me will live because of me. <sup>58</sup> This is the bread that came down from heaven. Your ancestors ate manna and died, but whoever feeds on this bread will live forever.” <sup>59</sup> He said this while teaching in the synagogue in Capernaum. <sup>60</sup> On hearing it, many of his disciples said, “This is a hard teaching. Who can accept it?” <sup>61</sup> Aware that his disciples were grumbling about this, Jesus said to them, “Does this **offend** you? <sup>62</sup> Then what if you see the Son of Man ascend to where he was before! <sup>63</sup> The Spirit gives life; the flesh counts for nothing. The words I have spoken to you—they are full of the Spirit and life. <sup>64</sup> Yet there are some of you who do not believe.” For Jesus had known from the beginning which of them did not believe and who would betray him. <sup>65</sup> He went on to say, “This is why I told you that no one can come to me unless the Father has enabled them.” <sup>66</sup> From this time many of his disciples turned back and no longer followed him. <sup>67</sup> “You do not want to leave too, do you?” Jesus asked the Twelve. <sup>68</sup> Simon Peter answered him, “Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. <sup>69</sup> We have come to believe and to know that you are the Holy One of God.”

### Stumbling stones on purpose...? Testing your hunger

#### Causing others to stumble

Matthew 18:6-7

<sup>6</sup> “If anyone causes one of these little ones—those who believe in me—to **stumble**, it would be better for them to have a large millstone hung around their neck and to be drowned in the depths of the sea. <sup>7</sup> Woe to the world because of the things that cause people to **stumble**! Such things must come, but woe to the person through whom they come!

Leviticus 19:14

Do not curse the deaf or put a **stumbling block** in front of the blind, but fear your God. I am the Lord.

Romans 16:17-18

<sup>17</sup> I urge you, brothers and sisters, to watch out for those who cause divisions and put **obstacles** (stumbling blocks) in your way that are contrary to the teaching you have learned. Keep away from them. <sup>18</sup> For such people are not serving our Lord Christ, but their own appetites...

No one wants to be o \_\_\_\_\_ a \_\_\_\_\_