

TRAPS

KEEP ME FREE FROM THE
TRAP....SET FOR ME.

PSALM 31:4

INSIGHT, INSPIRATION & INSTRUCTION
WITH PASTOR JOHN
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MONKEY TRAP

There are many traps in life (spiritual, relational and emotional traps) that can affect our lives. This 3-week series will help us identify traps and how to avoid them.

- Traps of deception can lead into making wrong decisions.
- 'Entrapments' in contracts, verbal agreements... things people say to each other...
- Political traps devised by man to work against you.
- Trapped into a certain lifestyle of an abusive relationship... or a certain economic state...
- Traps in the Christian walk setup by Satan to fall into sin... or l eading you into a sinful mindset.

One of the oldest references to trapping is found in the Old Testament of the bible in **Job 18:8** For the wicked is cast into a net by his own feet, and he walks upon a lattice-covered pit. ⁹ A trap will catch him by the heel, and a snare will lay hold on him. ¹⁰ A noose is hidden for him on the ground and a trap for him in the way.

CHARACTERISTICS OF TRAPS:

- Characteristic 1: One of the safest forms of hunting
- Characteristic 2: Found in just about every civilization and continent
- Characteristic 3: Similarities of trapping, element of surprise, using bait.

THE STRATEGY OF TRAPPING

- Pick the desired prey
- Study the desired prey, where it lives, what it eats, behavioral traits.
- Design the trap on how to fool the prey and capture it.

THE MONKEY TRAP

Designed to take advantage of the monkey's inquisitiveness and desire for bright colors and savory food.

Feed the monkey sweetened balls of rice.

Take advantage of the monkey not wanting to release the sweetened balls of rice.

- The enemy knows our 'sinful nature.' He's studied us to know our weaknesses.
- When what we shouldn't do becomes easy and comfortable...we have fallen into the trap

The Irony: The monkey could easily free itself at any time simply by opening its hand and letting go of the food, but its attachment to the reward keeps it trapped.

The Metaphor: Today, the "monkey trap" is more famously used as a psychological and philosophical metaphor. It symbolizes how we often become stuck in their own lives—clinging tightly to toxic relationships, grudges, jobs, or expectations—and suffer because they refuse to let go of a perceived reward, even when it is holding them back. **The primary takeaway from the story is that true freedom or escape is often achieved simply by choosing to let it go.**

- "You cannot let go of anything if you cannot notice that you are holding it." Neale Donald Walsh

The encounter of Jesus with the rich young man shows us how some people don't know who they are and don't know who they are not.

Matthew 19:20–22 "All these I have kept," the young man said. "What do I still lack?" ²¹ Jesus answered, "If you want to be perfect, **go, sell your possessions** and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me." ²² When the young man heard this, he went away sad, because he had great wealth. (Mark 10:17:27; Luke 18:18–30)

The Nature of the Beast— Knowing who you ARE and who you ARE NOT is the first step of walking firm and overcoming to not fall into a trap.

- Keep in mind that the enemy of our souls, knows 'us' well.
- The enemy knows our nature as humans: we are sinful
- The enemy knows our nature as individuals:
- The enemy probably knows us better than we know our selves.

KNOWING WHO WE ARE:

- Your Interests.
- Your Weaknesses.
- Youth Strengths.
- The level of risk we are willing to take.

- What are the things in life that gets your attention?
- Knowing you are holding on to something is important...
- Knowing WHAT you are holding on to is important...will help you know what you need to release.

'Remember Lot's wife" Luke 17:32

HOW MUCH OF YOUR PAST DEFINES WHO YOU ARE TODAY?

"I AM'S"

- o I am an addict, alcoholic.
- o I am an ex-con, have a record.
- o I am a victim, molestation, rape, abuse, violence
- o I was... and now I am... (2 Corinthians 2:17)

WHAT ARE WE STILL HOLDING ON TO

- Things people said.
- Hurts you still harbor

Emotional weaknesses

- | | | |
|-------------|--------------|--------------|
| • Envy | • Jealousy | • Hatred |
| • Animosity | • Bitterness | • Negativity |

FEARS

- | | | |
|-------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| • Fear of failure | • Fear of rejection | • Fear of denial |
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LETTING GO—LETTING GOD

- Letting go of control—releasing to trust, faith
- Letting go of pride, self confidence
- Letting go of always being 'right'
- Ownership or stewardship
- Is it my life???... or... is it my life surrendered???
