

Why The Last Days are Dangerous Part 4

In **Matt 24** Jesus tells us what will happen in The Last Days.

The major cause of danger He mentions in verses **10 & 12**.

*KJV Matthew 24:10 And then shall many be **offended**, and shall **betray** one another, and shall **hate** one another.*

Matthew 24:12 And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold.

Jesus said many will be **offended** “**scandalized**” **made to stumble!**

Believers will be offended by:

1. Finding stumbling-blocks to their faith as they **gain new understanding** of truth.
2. Because of the **slowness of some victories** in their lives.
3. Or in the **delayed coming** of Christ.

Scandals are stumbling blocks that cause believers to lose hope and leave the faith!

How many people (believer's) were **offended** (and still are) by the presidential election? How many **lost hope**, and left the faith?

How many feels **betrayed** by prophets who said The LORD said and it didn't happen?

How many have **hatred** for other believers who think differently, or have a different skin color?

❖ **The reason The Last Days are Dangerous is because of offences, betrayal, and HATRED increasing!**

*Matthew 18:6 **But** whoso shall **offend one of these little ones which believe in me**, it were better for him that a millstone were hanged about his neck, and that he were drowned in the depth of the sea.*

7 Woe unto the world because of offences! for it must needs be that offences come; but woe to that man by whom the offence cometh!

Jesus says (Woe) how horrible it will be for anyone who causes people to lose their faith. Offences will arise. But how horrible it will be for the person who causes someone to lose his faith!

He uses the word **offence** four times in **two verses**, *offences* are **bait** meant to trap and destroy believer's faith in God.

KJV Matthew 26:31 Then saith Jesus unto them, All ye shall be offended because of me this night: for it is written, I will smite the shepherd, and the sheep of the flock shall be scattered abroad.

Jesus said many who follow and believe in Him will be **offended** when He is taken, beaten, and crucified!

Why, their faith will be shaken because they **never** believed these things would happen to Christ even though the scripture & He said they would.

Today many are offended because things happened in their lives, they never thought would or somethings didn't happen they desired!

- **Scandals are dangerous to people's faith in God!**
- **Scandals cause pain that makes people betray one another!**
- **Scandals cause people to hate one another!**

KJV Proverbs 18:19 A brother offended is harder to be won than a strong city: and their contentions are like the bars of a castle.

Some translators say it reads like this:

"A brother assisted by a brother, is like a fortified city; and their decisions are like the bars of a city."

No wonder the Devil works so hard in the last days to cause offences!

People offended and betrayed by their parents, teachers, coaches, pastors, law enforcement, neighbors, family, and friends can cause hatred.

- ❖ **No wonder it's hard to share The Gospel or any good news with people!**

If everyone's offended and feels betrayed, they will hate everyone and trust no one but themselves! Hence the selfishness of The Last Days!

Brother's in Christ offended by each other is a trick of the enemy to get us to **betray and hate** one another!

Saints will **betray** one another in order to stay alive and escape persecution, possible torture, and imprisonment.

I thought we were in this together, than I find out you were only in it as long as you benefitted from it!!

Can you image a time when people you used to worship with, serve with, and pray with will **hate you?**

Hating someone is desiring them to fail, wishing them no success!

Jesus said in *Matthew 24:12* *And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold.*

❖ **Iniquity here means "lawlessness"!**

Because more and more people will despise God's Laws, man's laws, or any other laws and the love of people will **become cold!**

To grow cold means to turn from being **hot warm and healing** to become **cold hard and injurious!**

People who used to help you and heal you are now people who seek to harass you and harm you!

True saints love one another, it's the mark of faith to love your brother!

KJV 1 John 2:10 *He that loveth his brother abideth in the light, and there is none occasion of stumbling in him.*

Those who maintain their love for the saints live in **The Light**, the have revelation and understanding of where they're going.
And nothing will destroy their faith in God!

11 Those who hate other believers are in the dark and live in the dark. They don't know where they're going, because they can't see in the dark.

Hatred for the brethren means that person's in **darkness**, unconverted and without Holy Spirit present and active in their lives for He's The One who puts the love of God in our hearts **Rom 5:5**.

Joh 15:13 Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.

We're living in a world where the love of God is in short supply, scarce, and hard to find even among church goers!

Can you image living in times like this, with **God's love** so hard to find?

Days absent of love and full of hate are **DANGEROUS** times indeed!

After Jesus told the disciples He would be crucified and raised from the dead, **Peter said** "*if everyone is **offended** and abandons you I will not*"!

Jesus said to Peter "*I guarantee you this, tonight before a rooster crows twice, you will dent me twice.*"

Jesus tells us **offences** are inevitable!

To feel like **walking away!** Don't it's a **trap** of the Devil!

Psalm 119:165 Great peace (security) have they which love thy (instructions) law: and nothing shall offend them (make them stumble).

Lord forgive us if we've caused anyone to **stumble**, if we have **offended** any child of yours from the youngest to the most mature.

Help us **heal** and get over those who **offended us** and renew a right spirit within us!

We desire to build your Kingdom not tear it down!