



Stumbling Blocks

Romans 14: 13

Galatians 5: 7-10

Scriptures

¹³ Therefore let us stop passing judgment on one another. Instead, make up your mind not to put any stumbling block or obstacle in the way of a brother or sister. [Romans 14:13 New International Version](#)

⁷ You were running a good race. Who cut in on you to keep you from obeying the truth? ⁸ That kind of persuasion does not come from the one who calls you. ⁹ “A little yeast works through the whole batch of dough.” ¹⁰ I am confident in the Lord that you will take no other view. The one who is throwing you into confusion, whoever that may be, will have to pay the penalty. [Galatians 5:7-10 New International Version](#)

What is a Stumbling Block?

- An obstacle or hindrance to progress, belief, or understanding.

Hindrance

- A thing that provides resistance, delay, or obstruction to something or someone.
- Example "**a hindrance to the development process**"

Obstacle

- A thing that blocks one's way or prevents or hinders progress.
- Example "the major obstacle to achieving that goal is money"

[Dictionary.com](https://www.dictionary.com) and [Thesaurus.com](https://www.thesaurus.com)

What is the spiritual meaning of stumbling blocks?

The stumbling block of 1 Corinthians 8 (and Romans 14) is an action, taken by a biblically informed believer, that does not in itself violate any scriptural precept or principle, but which a less knowledgeable or less mature believer might imitate, in a way that violates his conscience.

What's At Stake With Stumbling Blocks?

If we allow ourselves to become stumbling blocks for children, new believers, or even outsiders?

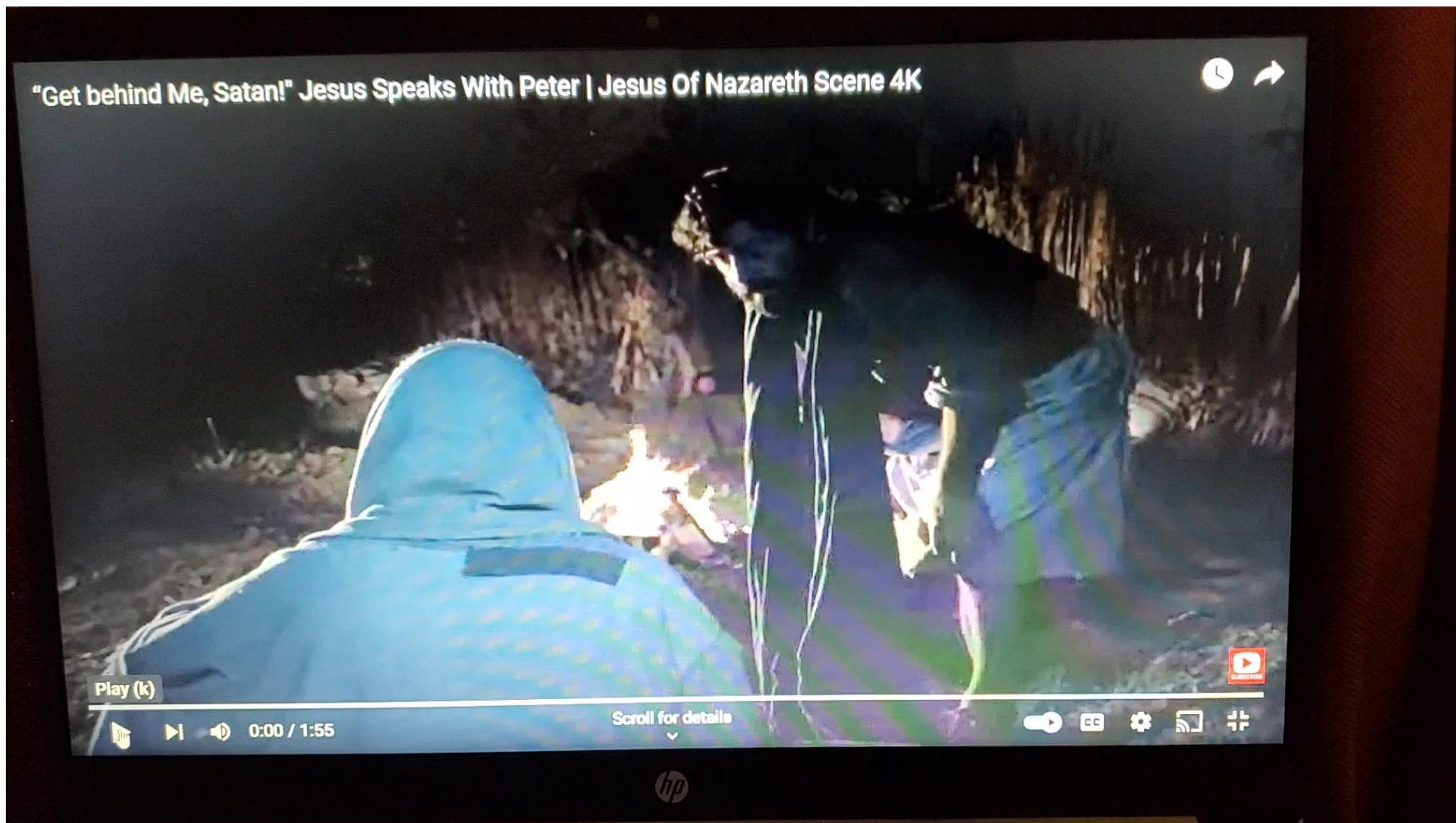
- For one thing, we as Christians are meant to be Christ's ambassadors to the world (Matthew 28:19-20). This means that we are here for a specific purpose. This is delivering the good news of our King, without alteration or error. Being a stumbling block means our words, actions, or behavior is hurting the cause of the gospel.
- How people perceive us, and our actions will influence how they see and come to know Christ and his message. So, if our actions can either glorify or hurt the message of Christ, we should take the possibility of being a stumbling block very seriously—especially as our world becomes more averse to hearing the message of the gospel preached. (Mark 7:20-21) (Matthew 15:18)
- The last thing we want is to cause someone to not want to hear the gospel even before we get a chance to talk to them. As for new believers, or even seasoned believers, we also do not want to cause them to stumble by modeling actions or beliefs which go against the message of Christ. It's worth keeping in mind that being a stumbling block does not apply only to our evangelical mission outside of the church, but also to our discipling mission within the church (Luke 17:1-4)

How Do We Become Stumbling Blocks?

1. By Corrupting the Impressionable (Ephesians 4: 25, 29; 2 Timothy 3:1-17).

- **Jimmy Swaggart:** In 1988, Swaggart was accused of patronizing a prostitute. He was suspended and ultimately defrocked by the Assemblies of God. Three years later, Swaggart was implicated in another scandal involving prostitution.
- **Jim Baker:** Two scandals brought down PTL in 1987: Bakker was **accused of sexual misconduct by church secretary** Jessica Hahn, which led to his resignation, and **his illegal misuse of ministry funds** eventually led to his imprisonment. Bakker was dismissed as an Assemblies of God minister on May 6, 1987.
- **Creflo Dollar:** Creflo Dollar confesses **he misled congregants**, says tithing not biblical. The prosperity preacher admitted he's been preaching the wrong gospel when it comes to tithes, stressing that tithing is Old Testament teaching and no longer relevant for New Testament believers. Creflo Dollar who recently made the confession during one of his Sunday sermons titled, "The Great Misunderstanding" cited Romans 6:14 in the Holy Bible to buttress how Christians now live under grace and not the laws of the Old Testament. **He, however, told his congregants that he's not suggesting that Christians should water down their act of giving** while saying tithing is an old testament thing.
- **Catholic Church:** In 2002, the Boston Globe's Spotlight team, a group of five investigative journalists, **uncovered the widespread sexual abuse of children by scores of the district's clergy**. They also revealed a **cover-up: that priests accused of misconduct were being systematically removed and allowed to work in other parishes**. Jan 13, 2016

Get The Behind Me Satan



How Do We Become Stumbling Blocks?

2. **When we focus on the purposes of man, but not on the purposes of God**

23 Jesus turned and said to Peter, “Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; you do not have in mind the concerns of God, but merely human concerns.” [Matthew 16:23 New International Version](#)

Let's Talk

- Example, going out to a graphic content comedy show?
- Example, sending someone an explicit Tic Toc or Instagram video?
- Example, at football game, cussing and fussing because the Cowboys are losing?
- Example, lying to your co-worker or family member?

How Do We Recover When We Stumble?

Luke 17(1-4)

- First, we need to confess what we have done.
- We need to be open that it hurt the message of the gospel, that we were poor ambassadors, and that we caused someone to stumble.
- We need to go to God and ask for his forgiveness.
- If able, we then need to go to the person or persons we may have wronged, admit we were wrong, and ask for their forgiveness.

Final Thoughts

Paul's Hardships

3 We put no stumbling block in anyone's path, so that our ministry will not be discredited.

4 Rather, as servants of God we commend ourselves in every way: in great endurance; in troubles, hardships and distresses;

5 in beatings, imprisonments and riots; in hard work, sleepless nights and hunger;

6 in purity, understanding, patience and kindness; in the Holy Spirit and in sincere love;

7 in truthful speech and in the power of God; with weapons of righteousness in the right hand and in the left;

8 through glory and dishonor, bad report and good report; genuine, yet regarded as impostors;

9 known, yet regarded as unknown; dying, and yet we live on; beaten, and yet not killed;

10 sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; poor, yet making many rich; having nothing, and yet possessing everything.

(2 Corinthians 6:3 New International Version)

Final Thoughts

Doing Good to All

1 Brothers and sisters, if someone is caught in a sin, you who live by the Spirit should restore that person gently. But watch yourselves, or you also may be tempted.

2 Carry each other's burdens, and in this way, you will fulfill the law of Christ. ([Galatians 6:1-2 New International Version](#))



Comments/Questions