

The Right Bait
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We have a mouse in our quarters. For some reason, my wife seems reluctant to want to share our house with him. I haven't actually seen the mouse, but we can sometimes hear him moving around in the pantry or in the kitchen. He seems perfectly content to remain concealed. I haven't found anything he has eaten, but my wife still wants him either relocated or exterminated.

A few months ago, I set out a trap for him. When we had a problem with mice at the Chapel, the pest control expert told me to bait the traps with peanut butter. He said mice loved it. I baited my trap with peanut butter, but apparently our mouse doesn't like the smooth variety. I don't feel very inclined to buy crunchy peanut butter, just to see if the mouse likes it better.

When the peanut butter didn't work, I decided to try the old standard, cheese. Unfortunately, the only cheese I had that I was willing to give up was a cheese product that is bought in a three pound block. The mouse must have discriminating taste, because he didn't go for this, either.

Yesterday, my wife heard the mouse again and encouraged me to do something. I decided to try something different. We had some small chocolate bars around, so I pulled out one that the label informed me was a "special dark" chocolate. Since I don't particularly care for dark chocolate, I decided to try that one. Unfortunately, either this mouse doesn't have a sweet tooth, or else he doesn't like dark chocolate, either.

I guess the problem is that I'm not using the right bait. In order for me to catch this mouse, I need to know what would really entice him toward the trap. Then, once he takes hold of the bait, SNAP! One less mouse to worry about. It's not that I have anything against mice in general, or this one in particular, but my wife wants him out of our house. In my understanding, that means, "Kill him!"

Satan is constantly trying to lure each of us into traps that will either destroy us or do us some type of harm. He entices people to use drugs with the promise that it will be an enjoyable experience with little risk. He tempts people to many different places and activities and uses lies and deceit to tell us that no harm will come to us.

He knows just what bait to use. He makes it look appealing. He makes promises he never intends to keep. He assures us that if we aren't better off, at least we won't be much worse off. And if we are, surely it will be worth it. What's a little trade of for pleasure, right?

Unfortunately, the reality is that if we give in to the temptation and take the bait, it will surely harm us. If it doesn't bring us physical harm, it will either hurt the relationship with someone we care about, or it will hurt our relationship with God. It will also hurt our ability to have a positive spiritual influence on others. Ultimately, it will destroy us spiritually.

The safest thing is to avoid the areas where the traps are located. That way, the bait doesn't become a temptation to us. The object is not to see how close we can get to the trap without being caught, but to avoid the trap altogether. Ask God for guidance. He will show you how to remain completely safe.

Semper Fi in the Lord and I hope to see you in church on Sunday.