

Baggage
What's Weighing You Down
And Impeding Your Progress
Session 2
Offence

Luke 17:1 KJV Then said He unto the disciples, it is impossible but that offences will come, but woe unto him through whom they come.

Amplified: *Jesus said to His disciples, Temptations (snares, traps set to entice to sin) are sure to come, but woe to him by or through whom they come! Take heed to yourself (listen to your spirit).*

What it means to OFFEND:

- To cause to sin
- To cause a stumbling-block (a stumbling-block impedes your progress. When you offend someone, you put a stumbling block in his or her path and impede his or her progress.)

- To deliberately ensnare or lay a trap.

As we consider offence, let us consider from two prospective:

- **Avoiding offense in our personal life**
- **Avoiding offending others** (*Proverbs 18:19 A brother offended is harder to be won than a strong city*)

Two Ways Offense Comes

1. **Words.** *James 3:2 Amplified For we all often stumble and fall and offend in many things, and if anyone does not offend in speech (never says the wrong things) he is a fully developed character and a perfect man, able to control his whole body and to curb his entire nature.).*

Your tongue is controlled by your heart (your whole invisible man made up of your mind, emotion, spirit and will). We must learn to speak life. **We must learn to think before we speak.**

2. **Deeds.** *Romans 1:12. And so each one of us must give an account of himself to God. 13. Then let us no longer criticize*

*and blame and pass judgment on one another, but rather decide and endeavor **never to put a stumbling block or an obstacle or a hindrance in the way of a brother.***

Offence Separates

Offense builds a wall of separation. We try to avoid those who have offended us and often leave churches when we are offended by words or actions of leadership. The problem with leaving a fellowship because of offence is that, if you don't learn to deal with offence and forgive, you will continue to meet the same offence wherever you go.

Who is easily offended?

Matthew 13:20** And Jesus said he that receives the word into stony places, the same is he that hears the word and with joy receives it, yet he does not have root in himself and he will endure for a while, but when tribulation or persecution arises because of the word, by and by, **he is_offended.

The person without roots is easily offended.

- Baby believers do not have roots.

- We get roots as we live in the Word and grow thereby!
- We must constantly consider those who are weak in the faith and help them grow stronger, so offence cannot steal the word from them and separate them from the body of Christ.

You can endure a little while without roots, but if you don't establish roots, by and by you will be offended and possibly separate from the body of Christ.

Offense is a matter of choice! You can choose not to be offended!

Psalm 119:165 Great peace have they that love thy law, and nothing shall offend them.

If you love the Word of God and you meditate on the Word of God, the Word will grow up in your heart and mind and although you will have opportunity to be offended, you will not embrace offence.

It takes a lot of spiritual energy to avoid offence, but the result is well worth the effort. God always has a way for His will in your

life, but you can block that way by embracing offence and usually offence comes just before a great breakthrough.

A Bible Example

1 Samuel 25

This story will give you an example of:



one who has been offended and needs to be restored;



one who offended and refused to forgive; and



one who restores the offended person.

Character #1: David *1 Samuel 25:1 Now Samuel died, and all the Israelites assembled and mourned for him, and buried him at his house in Ramah. David arose and went to the Wilderness of Paran.*

Character #2 Nabal. Nabal was totally different from David. The KJV uses the word “churlish” to describe Nabal. The dictionary defines “churlish” as rude or surly; bad tempered; ungracious, boorish, uncivil; stingy; grudging; vulgar. He was not spiritual because he did not recognize the anointing in David’s life. (verse 10). **He was very rich and very rude and he drank too much. No**

one could reason with him (verse 17). Nabal was wicked and ungodly.

Character #3 is Abigail. She was full of understanding, gracious and married to a very difficult man.

The Story:

Time of shearing – *“An opportune time for David to ask for a blessing from the man whose flock they had been protecting.”*

David sends 10 men to report they had protected his flocks and to ask for something during this time of celebration to repay them.

Nabal – failed to recognize David as God’s anointed, but referred to him as a run-away slave. Refused to give them anything.

Nabal’s Attitude: Nabal was offended by the request. He refused the request and insulted David. He was ungrateful, selfish and rude.

So David’s young men turned away and came and told him all that was said.

David’s response was also offense! (Verse 13) *And David said to his men, every man gird on his sword. And they did so, and*

David also girded on his sword; and there went up after David about 400 men and 200 remained with the baggage.

Verse 21. *Now David had said, surely in vain have I kept all that this fellow has in the wilderness, so that nothing was missed of all that belonged to him; and he has repaid me evil for good.*

22. May God do so and more also to David, if I leave of all who belong to him one male alive by morning.

- David also got offended
- Offense turned to anger
 - Anger cried out for revenge

Consider what we have.... Two angry men. What can be done? If something isn't done an entire household will be destroyed and both men will suffer greatly.

Nabal will lose his life and David his reputation.

A Woman to the rescue!

Verse 14. But one of Nabal's young men told Abigail, Nabal's wife, Behold David sent messengers out of the wilderness to salute our master and he railed on them.

15. *But David's men were very good to us and we were not harmed, nor did we miss anything as long as we went with them when we were in the fields.*
16. *They were a wall to us night and day, all the time we were with them keeping the sheep.*
17. *So know this and **consider what you will do**, for evil is determined against our master and his entire house. For he is such a wicked man that one cannot speak to him.*

Abigail's attitude. She could have sat back and let David get rid of this awful husband. To try to reason with him would be useless.

She knows :



David is anointed to the King of Israel



He is also a mighty warrior and



HE IS ANGRY AND OUT FOR REVENGE!

Between these two angry men stood Abigail and her household. She sees her household in danger and she acts, knowing it could cost her life.

Verse 18. Then Abigail made haste and took 200 loaves, two skins of wine, five sheep already dressed, five measures of parched grain, 100 clusters of raisins, and 200 cakes of figs and laid them on donkeys.

Then she set out to meet a man who had vowed to kill her!.

Abigail is heading up the mountain and runs right into the angry David! Eastern men had little respect for women, so she could easily have been killed, especially when he discovered she was the wife of his enemy

Abigail gives us wisdom in how to restore one who has been offended:

1. She validated his right to be angry.
2. She took responsibility for her household
3. She acknowledged the offense and the offender
4. She asked David to accept a peace offering

27. And now this gift, which your handmaid has brought my lord, let it be given to the young men who follow my Lord.

5. She reminded David of his destiny and encouraged him to protect his legacy.

- 28.** *Forgive I pray you, the trespass of your handmaid, for the Lord will certainly make my lord a sure house, because my lord is fighting the lord's battle and evil has not been found in you all your days.*
- 29.** *Though man is risen up to pursue you and to seek your life, yet the life of my lord shall be bound in the living bundle with the Lord your God. And the lives of your enemies – them shall He sling out as out of the center of a sling.*
- 30.** *And when the Lord has done to my lord according to all the good that He has promised concerning you and has made you ruler over Israel,*
- 31.** *This shall be no staggering grief to you or cause for pangs of conscience to my lord, either that you have shed blood without cause or that my lord has avenged himself, and when the Lord has dealt well with my lord, then earnestly remember your handmaid.*

○ *Abigail shared the power of forgiveness with David.*

- *Abigail stood in the place of Nabal and asked for forgiveness*
- *Abigail reminded David of his destiny, anointing, and responsibility that accompanied both.*
- *Abigail reminded David that God would handle his enemies*
- *Finally, Abigail asked to be remembered when David became king.*

David's Response

- 32.** *And David said to Abigail, blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel, who sent you this day to meet me.*
- 33.** *And blessed be your discretion and advice and blessed be you who have kept me from blood guiltiness and from avenging myself with my own hand.*
- 34.** *For the Lord, the God of Israel lives, Who has prevented me from hurting you, if you had not hurried and come to meet me, surely by morning there would not have been left so much as one male to Nabal.*

35. *So David accepted what she had brought him and said to her, go up in peace to your house. See I have harkened to your voice and have granted your petition.*

- David acknowledged that God had sent Abigail and spoke blessings over her.
- David acknowledged the danger she had been in
- David took her advice and forgave Nabal
- David placed his enemy in God's hands

David forgave – returned to his camp – Became Israel's greatest king!

36 *And Abigail came to Nabal and behold he was holding a feast in his house like the feast of a king. And his heart was merry, for he was very drunk; so she told him nothing at all until the morning light.*

37 *But in the morning, when the wine was gone out of Nabal, and his wife told him these things, his heart died within him and he became paralyzed helpless and a stone. (It appears Nabal had a heart attack or stroke).*

38 *And about ten days after that, the Lord smote Nabal and he died.*

I'm sure Abigail used the same grace and wisdom to approach her husband as she had used with David. However, notice the difference in his reaction.

- Nabal became angry
- He flew into a rage so severe that it caused him to have either a stroke or a heart attack and he died. **Offense killed him!**

39. *When David heard that Nabal was dead, he said, blessed be the Lord who has pleaded the cause of my reproach at the hand of Nabal, and kept his servant from evil. For the Lord has turned the wickedness of Nabal upon his own head. And David sent and communed with Abigail to take her to him as his wife.*

- Nabal refused to forgive and died
- David forgave and became King
- Abigail was a peace maker and became queen.

You can't allow unforgiveness to stay in your life.

You must learn to be one who restores those who have been offended.

If you forgive and restore those who have been offended – you will walk in the power of God!