UN-OFFENDABLE Part 1: It's A Matter of Choice

Objective: To challenge us to release past hurts and wrongs.

A person's <u>wisdom</u> yields <u>patience;</u> it is to one's <u>glory</u> to <u>overlook</u> an <u>offense</u>. Proverbs 19:11

Whoever would <u>foster love</u> covers over an offense, but whoever repeats the matter <u>separates</u> <u>close</u> <u>friends</u>.

Proverbs 17:9

...everyone will know that you are <u>my disciples</u>, if you <u>love</u> one another." John 13:35

- Consider this definition of *Offended*: "feeling or expressing hurt, indignation, or irritation because of a perceived wrong or insult."
 - What is the difference between a *perceived* wrong and someone actually wronging you?
 - Are most of your offenses from genuine mistreatment or from *perceived* wrongs?
- When you are wronged, do you have a tendency to let it grow or let it go?
 - What does it look like when we let a wrong grow into an offense?
 - What might it look like if we could learn to let it go?
- If being "offendable" makes us less attractive and more destructive to relationships, why do we hang on to our offenses for so long?
- Letting go of an offense is simple, it's just not easy. What is it about being offended that makes it so hard to let it go?

Consider this week:

- What offense have you taken up that is keeping you from pointing others to Jesus? What do you need to do to let it go so that you can be free and your life can point others to Jesus?
- If you aren't sure you can let go of an offense, spend some time praying and asking Jesus to give you the strength to let it go.

Final Thought: Being offended is a choice we make. No one can offend us unless we refuse to let go of what we believe to be a wrong against us.