

Through The Looking Glass  
Overcoming Offenses

December 3, 2017

**Isaiah 1:18-19** “Come now, let us settle the matter”, says the LORD.  
“Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red as crimson, they shall be like wool. If you are **willing and obedient**, you will eat the good things of the land.

3 Reasons we might stay offended:

- ✓ We have a wrong \_\_\_\_\_ of forgiveness.
  - It’s not minimizing the \_\_\_\_\_ of the offense.
  - It’s not \_\_\_\_\_.
  - It’s not \_\_\_\_\_ what happened.
- ✓ We don’t think it’s \_\_\_\_\_.

**Matthew 18:21-35** Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, “Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother or sister who sins against me? Up to seven times?” Jesus answered, “I tell you, not seven times, but **seventy-seven times**. Therefore, the kingdom of heaven is like a king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants....This is how my heavenly Father will treat each of you unless you forgive your brother or sister from your heart.

- ✓ We don’t \_\_\_\_\_ we can do it.

**Philippians 4:13** I can do everything through him who gives me strength.

**Key Thought:** Your life is too short and your \_\_\_\_\_ is too great to live offended.

**1 Corinthians 1:25-28** For the foolishness of God is wiser than man's wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than man's strength. God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong. He chose the lowly things of this world and the despised things--and the things that are not--to nullify the things that are.

Three Things God asks us to do when we are offended:

1. \_\_\_\_\_ for them.

**Matthew 5:43-44** "You have heard that it was said, 'Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' But I tell you: Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you."

2. \_\_\_\_\_ them.

**Luke 6:27-28** But I tell you who hear me: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you.

**Romans 12:14** Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse.

3. Do \_\_\_\_\_ to them.

**Romans 12:17-21** Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everybody. If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone. Do not take revenge, my friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: "It is mine to avenge; I will repay," says the Lord. On the contrary: "If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink. In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head." Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

**Ephesians 4:31-32** Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.

**Walk Away:** The forgiven \_\_\_\_\_.

**Next Week:** Legacy Offering. An offering that goes toward our 2018 Kids Expansion.

You Can Give 2 Ways:

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- Give online, [newheightsaz.com](http://newheightsaz.com) “Legacy Offering”

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3 Reasons we might stay offended:

- ✓ We have a wrong understanding of forgiveness.
  - It’s not minimizing the seriousness of the offense.
  - It’s not reconciliation.
  - It’s not forgetting what happened.
- ✓ We don’t think it’s fair.

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