

**LISTEN TO THIS MESSAGE**

Live stream at [OBCC.online.church](https://obcc.online.church); access a video of the service on YouTube.

**MAIN POINTS & KEY SCRIPTURES**

**It's hard to share because the gospel's hard to receive.**

**The gospel's hard to receive because Jesus is offensive.**

- 1 Peter 2:7-8

**Be ready for some to be offended by Jesus' teaching.**

- Matthew 15:12
- John 6:66-69

**Be ready for them to expect a different Jesus.**

- Luke 7:20-23

**Be ready for some to they think they already know Jesus.**

- Matthew 13:54-57a

**The gospel's hard to receive because the message is offensive.**

**It's offensive because it says we're not good enough.**

- Romans 9:30-33

**It's offensive because "it's too easy".**

- Galatians 5:11

**It's offensive because it is too narrow.**

- John 14:6

**Don't give any more offense than the gospel's offense.**

- Matthew 17:24-27

**Don't put an obstacle in front of the gospel.**

- 1 Corinthians 9:12
- 1 Peter 3:15

**Don't skip the offensive parts of the gospel.**

- John 13:20
- 1 Corinthians 1:22-25

**GROUP DISCUSSION**

1. Think about a time when you had to deliver difficult news or confront a challenging situation. How did you approach it, and what did you learn from the experience?
2. How does 1 Peter 3:15 challenge us to approach our understanding of the Gospel message? What does it mean to "always be prepared to give an answer" for the hope that we have?
3. **Read Matthew 13:53-56.** Jesus faced disbelief and offense in His hometown. How can familiarity in our current cultural setting hinder people from truly understanding Jesus? How can we help others overcome their preconceived notions about Him?
4. Samuel's response to the people's request for a king (1 Samuel 8:6-9) was one of prayer and continued faithful service to God. How can we emulate his example of responding to rejection or indifference to our faith-sharing efforts? What strategies or attitudes can help us separate personal feelings of rejection from our commitment to faithfully proclaiming God's message?
5. **Read Colossians 4:5-6.** How can we approach a conversation about faith with someone with humility and empathy, considering their background and struggles?
6. Considering the "offenses" of the Gospel, where are you hesitant to share due to fear of offending others? How can you approach conversations with non-believers or those of different faiths with sensitivity and understanding and remain true to the core message of the Gospel?
7. Reflecting on the claims Jesus made about Himself, such as being the way, the truth, and the life (John 14:6), how are we called to bear witness to these claims in our daily lives? In what places do you find this difficult?

**GOING FURTHER**

**MEMORIZE:** "And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors." **Matthew 6:12 NIV**

**WATCH:** A murder/forgiveness story - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o2BITY-3Mp4>

**LISTEN:** *Forgiven* by Crowder - [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u\\_ZWEO36jok](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u_ZWEO36jok)