

## Choices Part 8 – Unoffendable

There are **at least** 4 reasons why most believers never walk in the fullness of God, we are not going to discuss 3 of the 4 but I still want to mention briefly these reasons. *[could there be more than 4 reasons? Yes, I'm just mentioning what could be the top 3]*

- 1) Lack of faith (really no faith, or a faith that is so small that one would have to ask if it (faith) really exist in that person. Why say this - Jesus said if you had faith the size of a mustard seed...)
- 2) Entrance of His Word (this requires us to;
  - a. realize that without His Word in operation of our lives we can do nothing, for His Word is what brings power; and
  - b. honor His Word above man's word and even what we think is "right" which leads me to the third reason and today's topic
- 3) Revelation (insight) into The Word – This insight doesn't just come from man but also from the Holy Spirit
- 4) **Just because someone doesn't do something the way YOU** think it should be done doesn't mean they are not doing it God's way –
  - a. Another way to look at this is - **His will goes beyond what/how we think it should be done**
    - i. **Mark 3:1-6 (AMP)** - **Again Jesus went into a synagogue (my commentary – out of a choice Jesus made - He had a habit of going to church);** and a man was there whose hand was withered. <sup>2</sup>The Pharisees were watching Jesus *closely to see* if He would heal him on the Sabbath, so that they might accuse Him [in the Jewish high court]. <sup>3</sup>He said to the man whose hand was withered, "Get up and come forward!" <sup>4</sup>He asked them, "Is it lawful on the Sabbath to do good or to do evil, to save a life or to kill?" But they kept silent. <sup>5</sup>After looking around at them with anger, grieved at the hardness *and* arrogance of their hearts, He told the man, "Hold out your hand." And he held it out, and his hand was [completely] restored. <sup>6</sup>Then the Pharisees **[Luke 6:11 AMP... lacked spiritual insight]** went out and immediately *began* conspiring with the Herodians [to plot] against Him, as to how they might [fabricate some legal grounds to] put Him to death.
      - You can almost hear their thoughts – "no way God would do this on a

### Proverbs 4:23 (CJB)

Above everything else, guard your heart; for it is the source of life's consequences.

- (AMP – Keep and Guard your heart...)

- **Proverbs 4:23 (GNT)** - Be careful how you think; your life is shaped by your thoughts.

### **Matthew 15:21-28 (AMP)**

<sup>21</sup> After leaving there, Jesus withdrew to the district of Tyre and Sidon. <sup>22</sup> And a Canaanite woman **(Now the woman was a Gentile, a Syrophenician by birth.-see Mark 7:24-30)** from that district came out and **began to cry out [urgently], saying**, “Have mercy on me, O Lord, Son of David (Messiah); my daughter is cruelly possessed by a demon.” <sup>23</sup> **But He did not say a word** in answer to her. And His disciples came and asked Him [repeatedly], “Send her away, because she keeps shouting out after us.” <sup>24</sup> **He answered, “I was commissioned by God and sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.”** <sup>25</sup> But she came and **began to kneel down before Him, saying, “Lord, help me!”** <sup>26</sup> And **He replied, “It is not good (appropriate, fair) to take the children’s bread and throw it to the pet dogs.”** <sup>27</sup> She said, “Yes, Lord; but even the pet dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their [young] masters’ table.” <sup>28</sup> **Then Jesus answered her, “Woman, your faith [your personal trust and confidence in My power] is great; it will be done for you as you wish.”** And her daughter was healed from that moment.

Who is this women?

- 1) She is a women (remember the culture, not God, didn’t have a high regard for women back then)
- 2) She is not a Jew
- 3) She is a Canaanite
  - a. She is from Lebanon – an area surrounded by pagan Gentiles
  - b. She is a Gentile and not of the “house of Israel”
- 4) She has heard about this man even heard to call Him “Son of David”
  - a. Did she really know what this term meant?
  - b. Did she really believe who He is?
    - i. We don’t know but we do know that she has heard about Him and the healings He has done
  - c. She is bold
  - d. She is persistent
  - e. She is hungry (for her daughters healing)
  - f. She also doesn’t act or respond like so many do in the church today

Look closely at this encounter

1. He doesn’t answer her (He hears her, but “ignores” her) – Offense #1
2. Disciples ask Him to send her away (she hears this, she has too) – Offense #2
3. Jesus calls her a dog – Offense #3
  - a. **3 opportunities for her to be offended – but yet she choose not to be offended!**

This name-calling, would prick the woman in a most sensitive place: Here she is, a Gentile woman among a crowd of Jews; and our Savior humiliates her with this most demeaning term, one which was in the hearts of all.

### **Luke 17:1-5 (NKJV)**

Jesus Warns of Offenses

Then He said to the disciples, “**It is impossible that no offenses should come**, but woe *to him* through whom they do come! <sup>2</sup> It were better for him that a millstone were hanged about his neck, and he cast into the sea, than that he should offend one of these little ones. <sup>3</sup> Take heed to yourselves: If thy brother trespass against thee, rebuke him; and if he repent, forgive him. <sup>4</sup> And if he trespass against thee seven times in a day, and seven times in a day turn again to thee, saying, I repent; thou shalt forgive him. <sup>5</sup> And the apostles said unto the Lord, Increase our faith.

### **Impossible – unthinkable**

**Rick Renner** translate this verse this way – It is simply unthinkable that you would allow yourself to dream that you could live this life without the opportunity to be lured into a situation that could potentially snare you in the feelings of offense

**Continued from Rick Renner** - An offense usually occurs when you see, hear, or experience a behavior that is so different from what you expect that it causes you to falter, totter, and wobble in your soul (mind, will and emotions). In fact, you are so stunned by what you have observed or by a failed expectation that you lose your footing emotionally. Before you know it, you are dumbfounded and flabbergasted about something. Then your shock turns in disbelief; your disbelief into disappointment; and your disappointment into offense.

## **Offenses are events Offended is a choice**

### **Offense**

Strong's G4625 - *skandalon*

- The movable stick or trigger of a trap, a trap stick
  - A trap, snare
  - Any impediment placed in the way and causing one to stumble or fall, (a stumbling block, occasion of stumbling) i.e. a rock which is a cause of stumbling
  - **Fig. applied to Jesus Christ, whose person and career were so contrary to the expectations of the Jews concerning the Messiah, that they rejected him and by their obstinacy made shipwreck of their salvation**
- Any person or thing by which one is (entrapped) drawn into error or sin

### **Offense According to Webster –**

- **Something that causes a person to be hurt, angry, or upset**

Where do offenses come from?

Unmet expectation

Unknown expectation

Pride

Anger

Kingdom of darkness – I'll show you this one later

What does offense cause?

Division

Anger

Resentment

### Side Effect Of Being Offended

- Offense starts with a choice to act out how one feels
  - This is why it is so important to guard your heart.
    - Not just for good habits, but so always you don't have a habit of being offended
- Some of us live the life of offense so much that it (offense) has just become a part of who we are

### Cut yourself off from the anointing

**Mark 6:3-5 (AMP)** - Is this not the carpenter, the son of Mary, and the brother of James and Joses and Judas and Simon? Are His sisters not here with us?" And they were [deeply] offended by Him [and their disapproval blinded them to the fact that He was anointed by God as the Messiah]. Jesus said to them, "A prophet is not without honor (respect) except in his hometown and among his relatives and in his own household." And He could not do a miracle there at all [because of their unbelief] except that He laid His hands on a few sick people and healed them.

### Unbelief that started with offense – who does He think He is?

**Genesis 37:1-11 (CEV)** - Jacob lived in the land of Canaan, where his father Isaac had lived,<sup>2</sup> and this is the story of his family. When Jacob's son Joseph was seventeen years old, he took care of the sheep with his brothers, the sons of Bilhah and Zilpah.<sup>[a]</sup> But he was always telling his father all sorts of bad things about his brothers.<sup>3</sup> Jacob loved Joseph more than he did any of his other sons, because Joseph was born after Jacob was very old. Jacob had given Joseph a fancy coat<sup>[b]</sup><sup>4</sup> to show that he was his favorite son, and so Joseph's brothers hated him and would not be friendly to him.<sup>5</sup> One day, Joseph told his brothers what he had dreamed, and they hated him even more.<sup>6</sup> Joseph said, "Let me tell you about my dream.<sup>7</sup> We were out in the field, tying up bundles of wheat. Suddenly my bundle stood up, and your bundles gathered around and bowed down to it."<sup>8</sup> His brothers asked, "Do you really think you are going to be king and rule over us?" Now they hated Joseph more than ever because of what he had said about his dream.<sup>9</sup> Joseph later had another dream, and he told his brothers, "Listen to what else I dreamed. The sun, the moon, and eleven stars bowed down to me."<sup>10</sup> When he told his father about this dream,

his father became angry and said, “What’s that supposed to mean? Are your mother and I and your brothers all going to come and bow down in front of you?” <sup>11</sup> Joseph’s brothers were jealous of him, but his father kept wondering about the dream.

### Matthew 24:10 (AMP)

<sup>10</sup> At that time many will be **offended and repelled** [by their association with Me] *and* will fall away [from the One whom they should trust] and will betray one another [handing over believers to their persecutors] and will hate one another.

### **What to do with offenses**

#### 1. Don’t be offensive

- a. 1 Corinthians 10:32-33 (AMP) - **Do not offend** Jews or Greeks or even the church of God [but live to honor Him]; just as I please everyone in all things [as much as possible adapting myself to the interests of others], not seeking my own benefit but that of the many, so that they [will be open to the message of salvation and] may be saved.
- b. 1 Corinthians 8:13 (AMP) - <sup>13</sup> Therefore, if [my eating a certain] food causes my brother to stumble (sin), I will not eat [such] meat ever again, so that I will not cause my brother to stumble.
- c. 2 Corinthians 6:3 (AMPC) - <sup>3</sup> We put no obstruction in anybody’s way [we give no offense in anything], so that no fault may be found *and* [our] ministry blamed *and* discredited.

#### 2. Do what you can to live at peace

- a. Romans 12:18 (AMP) - If possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone.
  - i. Possible – something that is difficult but doable
    1. Notice this verse does not say “to approve” of all actions but do what you can do to be at peace.
      - a. Do what you can to not be offensive
        - i. It’s their choice to be offended or not just as it yours

#### 3. Don’t take it (don’t take the trap) – Women (dog)

- a. Matthew 11:6 (AMP) - And blessed [joyful, favored by God] is he who does not take offense at Me [accepting Me as the Messiah and trusting confidently in My message of salvation].”

#### 4. Rebuke it when it comes (offense comes from the kingdom of darkness)

- a. Matthew 16:23 (NKJV) - But He turned and said to Peter, “Get behind Me, Satan! You are an **offense** to Me, for you are not mindful of the things of God, but the things of men.”

5. Drop It If You Have Picked One Up

- a. **Proverbs 18:19 (AMP)** - A brother offended is harder to win over than a fortified city, and contentions [separating families] are like the bars of a castle.
- b. **Matthew 5:23-24 (AMP)** - So if you are presenting your offering at the altar, and *while* there you remember that your brother has something [such as a grievance or legitimate complaint] against you, leave your offering there at the altar and go. First make peace with your brother, and then come and present your offering

**Offense causes divisions**