

DO NOT BE OFFENDED

May 10, 2020

Welcome dear friends to our study from God's word.

Our message today is on not being offended.

This is a major subject in God's word. When hurt —

Many harden their hearts, they close their hearts, become bitter and turn from God, when difficulties come.

There is a great need for the spirit of understanding on this matter

In Luke 17:1 Jesus said, Offenses must come.

It's not possible for offences not to come.

They are necessary for our development.

Offenses are to test and prove us, and they are to purify us.

This is not preached enough in the church world today

Jesus also tells us in Matthew 11:6;

“Blessed is he, that shall not be offended in me.”

Jesus warns us, in Matthew 24:10;

That at the time just before his coming, when persecution comes

“Many be offended, and shall betray one another, and shall hate one another.” And in 24:12, that “the love of many will turn cold”

V13 - but he who endures to the end shall be saved.

So, when offenses come, are we going to be offended?

What does the word “offended” mean? To be stumbled, to fall.

Many Christians are going to be offended in these last days.

Many will harden their hearts, and become bitter, turn from God.

Let's consider Christ's teaching on the parable of the sower. The seed is the word of God. It falls into many kinds of grounds. These grounds represent many different kinds of hearts. When you preach the word, it falls into many hearts. Some hearts are fertile to receive word, some are not so fertile, Some hearts do not receive the word of God at all. So hard! But with many who do, the word is not received in any depth.

I want to major on Matthew 13:20, 21,
“But he that received the seed into stony places, (shallow ground) the same is he that hear the word, and [immediately] with joy receive it; Yet hath he not root in himself, but endure for a while: for when tribulation or persecution arises because of the word, {immediately} he is offended.”

Here are people who receive the word with joy, they're born-again
And endure for a while, but their roots don't go down deeply.
They are not deeply committed, Or well taught,
And they are not deeply grounded in the word of God.
There are many Christians like this.
This is the problem in the church world today.
They are not well taught or grounded in the word of God.
They are not prepared for troublous times that are coming.

We need to understand why we are on earth for this short time.
We were created to be tested. God wants a tested people.

“What is man, that thou shouldest magnify him? and that thou shouldest set thine heart upon him? And that thou shouldest visit him every morning, and try him every moment?” Job 7:17, 18, KJV.

jGod wants true friends. In Proverbs 17:17, it says:

“A true friend loves at all times”

A real friend remains loyal in the good times and difficult times

The commitment of many Christians is very shallow / superficial

Many Christians are only serving God for the blessings.

And yes, God does love to bless his people.

But our true loyalty/friendship is proven when things are not easy

Job loved, worship God, in the good times and very difficult times

Job 1:20-22 - In one day, Job lost everything.

He lost all his children, his Business, everything.

And fell down and worshipped God. “God is good all the time”

God gave me all these things, taken them, blessed be his name.

Here's a true friend. Loving God in the good times/difficult times

Job represents the church going through the great tribulation.

He was a righteous man, being made even more righteous.

He said he was like gold being purified in the fire (Job 23:10)

Roman 6:19, talks about “righteousness unto holiness.”

Job was a good man being made even more righteous.

At the end of his trial, he said this - Job 42:5 -

Lord, I’ve heard you with my ears, but now mine eyes see you.

He had a greater revelation of the Lord after his trial.

When we don't understand, here are a few things we need to say:

- 1. Lord I don't understand, but I trust you.**
- 2. I know you will make everything beautiful in your time Ecc.3:11**
- 3. Help me not to question, challenge, or criticize you in anyway.**
- 4. You do all things well.**
- 5. Give me much grace to help me in time of need.**

Many people who followed Jesus, later turned back, offended. Jesus taught, I am the true bread that came down from heaven. John 6:51-59 - of course, He is the living Word. The bread of life. He asked all of his disciples to partake of all of him.

In John 6:60-61 “Many therefore of his disciples, when they had heard this, said, This is an hard saying; who can hear it? When Jesus knew in himself that his disciples murmured at it, he said unto them, Does this offend you?”

“From that time many of his disciples went back, and walked no more with him.” John 6:66, KJV. OFFENDED.

**It was a test! Many were offended, and turned back.
We will have many tests in life.
Let us never Harden our hearts.**

**When Israel was in the wilderness, coming out of Egypt,
Things were not happening fast enough!
They hardened their hearts, and found fault with God.
We are warned many times - do not harden your heart.
Do not harden your heart like Israel did in the wilderness.**

Hebrews 3:8, 15; “Harden not your hearts, as in the provocation, in the day of temptation in the wilderness:” “While it is said, To day if ye will hear his voice, harden not your hearts, as in the provocation.”

**Why do people harden their hearts? They are offended!
They are not rooted and deeply committed to God.
They lack trust, and faith, and understanding of God’s ways.**

**They are angry, bitter, closing their hearts to God. How serious!
Another Great key to victory in our trial is embracing Isaiah 64:4:
Israel failed because of terrible impatience.**

**God had tremendous blessings if they had waited for him.
They criticized God saying he was taking too much time.
But listen to this promise:**

**“For since the beginning of the world men have not heard, nor
perceived by the ear, neither hath the eye seen, O God, beside
thee, what he hath prepared for him that wait for him.”**

**This is quoted by Paul in first Corinthians 2:9:
Here Paul says the things God prepared for those who love him.
We actually prove our love for God by waiting for him.**

Many marriages fail. Why?

**People are hurt, wounded, bitter, unforgiving, offended.
Because they have hardened their hearts, and refused grace.
I cannot and I will not never forgive you!**

**But when we are hurt, grace, divine enablement is available.
We are told in Hebrews 4:16, to come to the throne of grace,
To Find Grace to help in the time of need.
People often fail to receive the grace of God in their time of need!**

**“Looking diligently lest any man fail (to receive) the grace of God;
lest any root of bitterness springing up trouble you, and thereby
many be defiled;” Hebrews 12:15, KJV.**

**There are many pressures in life, and in marriage relationships.
Men and women are so different, the way they think, and feel.
Our preferences often differ greatly.**

But we are told to forbear one another in love.

Eph 4:2* With all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love;

Col 3:13* Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye.

**So when we are hurt or under pressure, we have a choice to make
We can come to the throne of grace fine help in our time of need.
Or we can harden our heart, and cherish our offenses.**

**From this time forward, let's cry out to God for divine enablement.
This is what grace is, the Divine substance that strengthens us.**

Lord fill us with your grace.

Lord, let not my heart be hard, bitter, or unforgiving, or impatient

May I never question your wisdom or love.

Give me understanding Lord.

Help me never to be offended, or Harden or close my heart.

By your grace lord. Amen!

“Great peace have they which love thy law: and nothing shall offend them.” Psalms 119:165;

May we all love and understand the word of God.

Then nothing will offend us.