

**I'm Fine... Part 3**  
**"Jesus' Theology of Offense"**  
**August 7th, 2022 (Pre-Recorded)**

**Intro:**

**- What's Up? Welcome Locations!**

**- Today, we're concluding our series called, "I'm Fine... Clearly you're Not!" & it's all about Offense!**

**- This is where we're living... everyday we have Opportunity for Offense!**

**- Honestly, Church Family, we as a Leadership Team have felt so strong in our spirit that we needed to talk about this, b/c this is where the enemy has attacked our church in recent years... Offense!!!**

**- We know this has been the enemy's strategy to break us apart & get us disunified through Offense!**

**- Church, we know we can do better... together!**

**- The devil is attacking b/c he is scared of what we are capable of when we are in Unity together!!!**

**- No Church is Perfect! No Leader is Perfect, No Friend is Perfect!**

**- Just b/c someone offends us in our SG or on our Serve Team doesn't mean we leave it!**

**- Just b/c a leader offends us doesn't mean we uproot & dislocate from the body!**

**- This is the enemy's trick... offense!!!**

**- Thankfully, as we are seeing in this series, the Bible gives us tools for how to deal w/ Offense when it comes in our lives!!!**

**- Today we are going to look at "Jesus' Theology of Offense!"**

**- "Theology" - What we believe about God!**

**- Church - We have to know what we believe on these things!**

**PRAY**

**- ? Have you ever noticed how God uses People to Point out things in US that need refining?!?**

- Spouse / Co-Worker / Boss / Relative - Opp's this Week, huh?!?

**BigIdea: One of the Primary Tools God uses to CHANGE US is Relationships!**

- You wish I said "Change others!" but I didn't!!!
  - We've pray, "God change THEM!" That would be so easy!!!

- In Luke 17, we see Jesus speaking to this very subject of Offense in Relationships & there's so much we can learn & apply!!!

Luke 17:1-2 "Then He said to the disciples, "It is impossible that no offenses should come, but woe to him through whom they do come! It would be better for him if a millstone were hung around his neck, and he were thrown into the sea, than that he should offend one of these little ones."

- That's Intense... don't worry, we're going to break this down!

v. 3-4 "Take heed to yourselves. If your brother sins against you, rebuke him; and if he repents, forgive him. And if he sins against you seven times in a day, and seven times in a day returns to you, saying, 'I repent,' you shall forgive him."

v. 5 "And the apostles said to the Lord, "Increase our faith."

- At the end of the teaching, the Disciples' are like: *"That is the Hardest thing you've ever asked us to do!!!"*
  - We are gonna need WAY More Faith to live like that!?!

- And the same is true of us!

- Living in Relationship & close proximity with others is one of the hardest things we will ever do! Amen???
  - & yet, Jesus says we MUST & we CAN!

- I want to break down these verses, b/c there's so much that is helpful for how we Live in Rel w/ others!

v. 1-2 "Then He said to the disciples, "It is impossible that no offenses should come, but woe to him through whom they do come! It would be better for

him if a millstone were hung around his neck, and he were thrown into the sea, than that he should offend one of these little ones."

**(4 Thoughts) on Jesus Theology of Relationships & Offense:**

**"We must..."**

**1. Recognize & Own it when we Offend Others.**

**A. Jesus says that When we are the Offender, we need to Recognize it & OWN IT!!!**

- Do whatever you can do to make the relationship right, lest it become a heavy weight on you or on the other person!
- The idea of a "millstone" essentially is saying, "Offense can drown us if we let it!"
- ? Anybody ever felt drowned by offense? - in either direction!

**B. Sarah had so much wisdom & insight into Matthew 18 & how we actually do this last week! (Rewatch it!)**

- Let me say this...

**C. Church - Owning when we Offend someone starts with "I'm Sorry!"**

- btw - NOT... *"I'm sorry... but!!!!"*
- ? Why is "Sorry" so hard for us to say? (HAVE FUN!!!)
- Literally, we come up w/ 100 diff ways to Say it but not say it!
  - MTG RECENTLY - "I regret..." - Come on man, just say it!!!
- Why? Pride!!!

**Proverbs 13:10a "Where there is strife, there is pride..."**

- Count on it! Whenever you see strife in a Rel, you can know Pride is Present!!!

**D. We must Be Willing to Humble ourselves & Say we are Sorry!**

- There is no downside to saying you're sorry, owning your fault & being humble!
- **(LET'S PRACTICE!!!) AGAIN, HAVE FUN!**
  - Sorry takes Humility & Humility is the path to Relationship!!!

- So Jesus says, "Own it when you Offend someone!!!"

"We must..."

## 2. Pay Attention to our own Heart.

### v. 3 "Take heed to yourselves."

#### A. Jesus commanded, "Take heed to yourself."

- IOW, Pay Attention to your heart & when you've been offended!
- Most of us have picked up offense & we don't even realize it!
  - Why? B/c we haven't "Taken Heed!"

### v. 1 again "It is impossible that no offenses should come!" - It's a promise!

#### B. It is OUR Responsibility to be dealing with & clearing our Heart on a Daily Basis!

- We want to blame & hold it against them, but Offenses WILL come
- Jesus is like, "Take heed & take it to God!"

#### C. ~~IMAGINE HOW MUCH JESUS COULD HAVE GOTTEN OFFENDED!~~

- All the time... He was perfect & knew other's thoughts!

#### D. Jesus says, "Take Heed!" (IOW, ask, "What's the Condition of my Heart?")

- Most of the time, people have no idea that what they said or did hurt us!
- Where the Minor Stuff is Concerned... We must do 2 things:
  - 1) Show Empathy (Put yourself in their shoes) &
  - 2) Give the Benefit of the Doubt!
- Take it to God & Forgive!

"Where you can't Move Past it, We must..."

## 3. Go to those who have Offended us.

### v. 3 "Take heed to yourselves. If your brother sins against you, rebuke him; and if he repents, forgive him."

- To Assign Value that is Fitting to the Situation.
- Warning to Prevent Sarcasm

*This is what we've lost in our culture today!*  
*- There is No BOTD Anymore!*  
*- It's just Quick Judgment, Correct!*

A. When we can't get past it w/ God, then Jesus says that we are Obligated, to go to those who have offended us.

- We don't want to! - But we MUST!!!
- We must give them an opportunity to Repent & make it right!

B. Why? B/c Jesus knew that Repentance ALWAYS strengthens the Relationships!

- When Repentance is GENUINE & RECEIVED, it actually strengthens our Relationships!!!

- When we humble ourselves & Repent, the Rel. gets STRONGER!

C. Genuine - We judge "Genuine" by us which is incorrect!

- They aren't going to say everything perfectly or exactly the way we want or we would!
  - They get to be them & say & do it THEIR WAY!
- MY FRIEND ILL - I would have wanted it in a different package, but I received it b/c it came as sincerely as HE could in the moment
- We have to CHOOSE to Receive it!

D. A Word about those who will NEVER Repent...

- Many of us have Rel's where Offense has occurred & there is ZERO Repentance!
  - They are Oblivious / Obstant / or Dead!
    - Most of us have someone who is Still alive & completely UNREPENTANT!!!
- What do we do then?

E. We have to go to the Deep Place & let Jesus Heal us!!!

- MWK - IF THEY WOULD JUST OWN 2% ILL.
  - "That's never going to happen... your move!"
- My Clinched Fists cannot hold the good things God is trying to give me! (PASTOR THEM RIGHT HERE!)

"According to Jesus, We must..."

4. Make Room in our Theology that People will NEVER be Perfect.

v. 4 "And if he sins against you seven times in a day, and seven times in a day returns to you, saying, 'I repent,' you shall forgive him."

~~- Jesus says "7 times in a day / 490 times in a day... Forgive!" (Mt. 18.22)~~

A. ~~Either way~~, Jesus was saying a Large Part of our Theology of Relationships has to be built around Offense being a Common Occurrence in our Lives!

- We don't live that way! - We live the Opposite way...
- Like Offenses are supposed to be a Rarity, not commonplace!

B. Jesus actually set us up to Expect it & have tools to handle it!

~~- We can change our worldview by adopting new expectations around the Theology of Offense in our Relationships:~~

**\* Stop seeing Offense as an Obstacle & start seeing it as an Opportunity!**

C. Remember...at the Beginning: **One of the Primary Tools God uses to CHANGE US is Relationships!**

- The Purpose of Conflict & Trouble in our Life is to Point out something IN US that God wants to heal & change & fix & remove!

D. This is when the Disciples say...

v. 5 "And the apostles said to the Lord, "Increase our faith."

- Yeah, we don't have enough faith for that!!!

- "Watch what Jesus says next..."

v. 6 "So the Lord said, "If you have faith as a mustard seed, you can say to this mulberry tree, 'Be pulled up by the roots and be planted in the sea,' and it would obey you."

- It's a continuation of thought!

E. Jesus is Essentially saying, "Just a little bit of faith can throw trees into the sea, use that same faith in your relationships!!!"

F. Begin asking: "God what do you want to do IN ME through this Situation?"

- We want it to be "Them / Them / Them,"
- But it's actually "God what do you want me to see in me that needs to be more like You?"

- Imagine what our lives could look like, if instead of saying, "I'm Fine!" & pretending, or blaming & being mad, we said,

"God what are you trying to do in me through this?"

*Increase my  
Faith in  
my Rel's!*

- What could our lives look like a year or two from now?!?

**Challenge:**

? God what are you doing in me right now?

- Saying we are Sorry
- Making Room for Imperfection
- Humility
- You need to go to someone!
- Time to Overlook the Minor Stuff

*STAND!*

- Our Pastors are coming back at all of our Locations to lead us through a time of consecration & commitment!

- I want each of us to respond how the Lord is leading us!!!

- We can Leave Different than we came!

**PRAY**