
A Plan for Offenses and Offenders, Part II (Continued)

God's Plan For Your Trouble

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Sermon: God's Plan For Your Trouble: A Plan for Offenses and Offenders (Continued)

Lesson Text

Luke 17:1–5 (AV)¹ Then said he unto the disciples, **It is impossible but that offences will come: but woe unto him, through whom they come!** ² **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.** ³ **Take heed to yourselves: If thy brother trespass against thee, rebuke him; and if he repent, forgive him.** ⁴ **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.** ⁵ And the apostles said unto the Lord, Increase our faith.

Matthew 18:21–22 (AV)²¹ Then came Peter to him, and said, Lord, how oft shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? till seven times? ²² Jesus saith unto him, **I say not unto thee, Until seven times: but, Until seventy times seven.**

Matthew 18:32–35 (AV)³² Then his lord, after that he had called him, said unto him, **O thou wicked servant, I forgave thee all that debt, because thou desiredst me:** ³³ **Shouldest not thou also have had compassion on thy fellowservant, even as I had pity on thee?** ³⁴ **And his lord was wroth, and delivered him to the tormentors, till he should pay all that was due unto him.** ³⁵ **So likewise shall my heavenly Father do also unto you, if ye from your hearts forgive not every one his brother their trespasses.**

Introduction (Review of Last Sermon)

Offense means to do wrong, to cause difficulty, discomfort, or injury. It also means to cause dislike, anger, or vexation. To violate, transgress, cause pain, hurt, or cause to feel resentment.

John's Struggle with His Calling:

- Matthew 11: ² Now when John had heard in the prison the works of Christ, he sent two of his disciples, ³ And said unto him, Art thou he that should come, or do we look for another?
- We all have at some point have asked, whether privately or publicly, questions like “For real God?” “Why God?” “Why would you allow this to happen to me?” “I never get a break” “All my life I had to (fill in the blank).”
- Psalm 22:1 My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me? *why art thou so far from helping me, and from the words of my roaring?*
- Psalm 73: ¹ Truly God *is* good to Israel, *even* to such as are of a clean heart. ² But as for me, my feet were almost gone; my steps had well nigh slipped. ³ For I was envious at the foolish, *when* I saw the prosperity of the wicked.

God's Plan is not our Plan:

- Jeremiah 29:11 (BSB) ¹¹ For I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, to give you a future and a hope.

- Isaiah 55:⁸ For my thoughts *are* not your thoughts, neither *are* your ways my ways, saith the LORD. ⁹ For *as* the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts.
- Matthew 5:⁴⁵ **That ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven: for he maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust.**
- Psalm 34:¹⁹ Many *are* the afflictions of the righteous: but the LORD delivereth him out of them all.
- 2 Corinthians 4:⁸ *We are* troubled on every side, yet not distressed; *we are* perplexed, but not in despair; ⁹ Persecuted, but not forsaken; cast down, but not destroyed;
- Genesis 50:²⁰ But as for you, ye thought evil against me; *but* God meant it unto good, to bring to pass, as *it is* this day, to save much people alive.

Point I: The Offense of Your Calling:

- Matthew 11:6 **And blessed is *he*, whosoever shall not be offended in me.**
- Matthew 11:¹¹ **Verily I say unto you, Among them that are born of women there hath not risen a greater than John the Baptist: notwithstanding he that is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.**
- What is God's Plan when we are offended by our calling?
- Matthew 11: ⁴ Jesus answered and said unto them, **Go and shew John again those things which ye do hear and see: ⁵ The blind receive their sight, and the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up, and the poor have the gospel preached to them.**
- The plan for the offense of our calling is first to remind us that the calling is still working.

Today we continue this Sermon by looking at the inevitability that we will be offended, and that it will come from those closest to us.

Series and Sermon: God's Plan For Your Trouble: A Plan for Offenses and Offenders (Continued)

“God's Got a Plan for the Offense of Your Calling, the Offense of Your Brother, and the Offense of Yourself”

II. The Offense of Your Brother

Luke 17:1 Then said he unto the disciples, **It is impossible but that offences will come: but woe unto him, through whom they come!**

The second challenge I face as a pastor is counseling people about their offenders.

I've had some great members who are no longer members of our church. And it hurts me that they left, but in most cases I could do nothing to convince them not to leave.

One of the persistent things I've learned about this challenge was not so much what was done to them, but who did it to them.

Psalm 41:⁹ Yea, mine own familiar friend, in whom I trusted, which did eat of my bread, hath lifted up *his* heel against me.

Familiar friend here is translated to Best friend.

It's not just that I was hurt, but that it was you who hurt me. It was not that I was betrayed, but it was the one that I loved that betrayed me.

I expected my enemies to hurt me, to betray me, but "Et Tu Brute?" (A Latin phrase that means "You too Brutus?" said by Julius Caesar after recognizing that one of his assassins was his friend Brutus)

But he was a preacher, she was a minister, it was my Pastor, it was my own family, my own brother, my own child, my own mother, my own father!

The plan for the offense of our brother, mother, sister, lover is to recognize that these offenses are a part of the plan to glorify God.

John 12:²⁷ **Now is my soul troubled; and what shall I say? Father, save me from this hour: but for this cause came I unto this hour.** ²⁸ **Father, glorify thy name.** Then came there a voice from heaven, *saying*, I have both glorified *it*, and will glorify *it* again.

1 Peter 4:¹² Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you: ¹³ But rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ's sufferings; that, when his glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy.

I know you've been offended, but there's glory coming out of this!

III. The Offense of Yourself

Luke 17: ⁴ **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.** ⁵ And the apostles said unto the Lord, Increase our faith.

- God's Plan for the Offense of Our Calling is the Blessings of the Lord
- God's Plan for the Offense of Our Brothers is the Glory of the Lord
- God's Plan for the Offense of Ourselves is the Forgiveness of the Lord

The final challenge I deal with as a Pastor is getting us to shift the focus of our offenses from ourselves to our Lord.

We tend to lose it concerning our offenses, especially when we feel that it has been too much. Too much trouble, too many afflictions, so much pain, too many betrayals.

Matthew 18:21 Then came Peter to him, and said, Lord, how oft shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? till seven times?

Lord, how long do we have to put up with this? How much do we have to go through? How long do I remain single? How long can I put up with this bad marriage?

Matthew 18:22 Jesus saith unto him, **I say not unto thee, Until seven times: but, Until seventy times seven.**

Matthew 18:³² **Then his lord, after that he had called him, said unto him, O thou wicked servant, I forgave thee all that debt, because thou desiredst me: ³³ Shouldst not thou also have had compassion on thy fellowservant, even as I had pity on thee? ³⁴ And his lord was wroth, and delivered him to the tormentors, till he should pay all that was due unto him. ³⁵ So likewise shall my heavenly Father do also unto you, if ye from your hearts forgive not every one his brother their trespasses.**

Lamentations 3:²² *It is of the LORD'S mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not. ²³ They are new every morning: great is thy faithfulness.*

We are forgiven for our offenses, so forgive them for theirs!

Midweek Study Lesson Plan (Sermon: A Plan for Offenses and Offenders, Part II (Continued))

Lesson Text

- Luke 17:1–5, Matthew 18:21–22, Matthew 18:32–35

Sermon Outline (Notes)

I. *The Offense of Your Calling*

II. *The Offense of Your Brother*

III. *The Offense of Yourself*

Questions (What was your main takeaway from Sunday’s Sermon?)

I. Getting to Know “Me”

1. If you could, what rule would you add to your favorite sport?
2. What month of the year is your favorite and why?

II. Into the Bible

1. According to Proverbs 19:11 (NASB), “.A person’s discretion makes him slow to anger, and it is his glory to overlook an offense.” What observations can we make from the wisdom of this Proverb? What keeps one from deferring anger?
2. Read John 11:1-44. By Mary’s and Martha’s response in John 11:21, 32, they were offended. Why were they offended? How did Jesus respond?

III. Life Application

1. ***The Offense of Your Calling***: It can be challenging at times to continue in your calling when it appears that the world is prospering, and it’s sometimes challenging to see other Believers prospering. What does this reveal about our own hearts? What can we do to uproot the root of this revelation?
2. ***The Offense of Your Brother***: We must come to terms with the fact that we cannot change others. How can knowing that help us when we are offended by others? Give practical ways to start the forgiving and healing process when we are offended.
3. ***The Offense of Yourself***: When we receive salvation through Jesus, God forgives us for all of our past, present, and future sins. It is sometimes hard to forgive ourselves. Think of a time when you had to forgive yourself. How did you do it and what would you say to someone who needs to free themselves through forgiveness?