The Impossibility Of Being Offended (The Faith To Overcome)

God’s Plan For Your Offenses, Hurts, and Betrayals

Pastor Wil Nichols
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Victorious Praise Fellowship Church of God in Christ
2116 Page Rd. Durham NC 27703
WEBSITE: www.VictoriousPraise.org
EMAIL: PastorWil@VictoriousPraise.org, Info@VictoriousPraise.org
PHONE: (919) 957-7500
Sermon: God’s Plan For Your Offenses, Hurts, and Betrayals: The Impossibility Of Being Offended (The Faith To Overcome)

Lesson Text
Luke 17:1–5 (AV)

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.

Hebrews 11:6 (AV)

But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.

James 2:19–20 (AV)

Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well: the devils also believe, and tremble. 20 But wilt thou know, O vain man, that faith without works is dead?

Introduction
Last week we began to look at how our Offenses, Hurts, Pains, and Betrayals impact our Soul. Like John the Baptist, when these offenses happen, they can make us question ourselves and our relationship with the ones that have offended us.

John asked Jesus, “Art thou he that should come, or do we look for another?” And like John, when we are offended, we ask the same thing, are you the spouse, the friend, the coworker, the brother or sister in the Lord, or should I look for another?

But Jesus taught us that we can be blessed when offended because of our Purpose, Testimony, and Partaking.

Now what we learn in today’s main lesson text is that these offenses are inevitable; Luke 17: Then said he unto the disciples, It is impossible but that offences will come:

And this is particularly troubling because most of us spend our lives trying to avoid offenses. Albert Einstein is credited with the quote “Insanity is doing the same thing over and over expecting different results.”

And if we keep trying to avoid offenses, it will drive us crazy, because it’s impossible. So, what’s the answer? To look to the one who deals in the impossible.

Matthew 19: 26 But Jesus beheld them, and said unto them, With men this is impossible; but with God all things are possible.
Hebrews 11: 6 But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.

If we are to overcome the impossibility and inevitability of offenses, we must use our faith.

*Series and Sermon: God’s Plan For Your Offenses, Hurts, and Betrayals: The Impossibility Of Being Offended (The Faith To Overcome)*

“The Impossibility of The Offended, The Offender, and the Offenses”

**I. The Impossibility of The Offended (Have Faith)**

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! 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.

Most people do everything they can to keep from being offended. The reason is because offenses don’t just hurt our feelings, they break our hearts, crush our souls, and tempt us to sin. Jesus particularly hates it because babes in Christ (the little ones), are not as strong and can easily fall prey to the temptations of offenses.

But as dangerous as they can be, and in spite of all our efforts to avoid them, they are inevitable. We literally offend each other even when we are not trying.

I was counseling someone who was frustrated because they were trying to do something nice, but the person got offended. They said to me “What could I have done?” I said “Nothing!”

So how do we deal with the impossibility of being offended? We must have faith and trust God.

Hebrews 11: 6 But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.

Since it is impossible to avoid offenses, we must use impossible faith to overcome it.

Matthew 19: 26 … With men this is impossible; but with God all things are possible.

What can we do to deal with these impossible situations? Have faith in God who does the impossible. We can’t avoid it, but God can fix it. We can’t stop it, but God can fix it.

While we’re trying to figure it out, God has already worked it out!

**II. The Impossibility of The Offender (Use Faith)**

Luke 17: 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.

Not only must we deal with being offended, but we must also deal with the offender. Not only are we hurt, but many times we’re working, churching, or even living with the one who hurt us.
What an impossible situation; “I’m hurt by you and yet I got to look at you every day. And worse yet, you don’t even act like you’re sorry for what you did.”

We can become so emotionally overwhelmed that we feel like we’re going to die.

Now what Jesus says we must do is forgive them, even if it’s over and over and over again.

This is where we have to move from just simply having faith to actually using it.

James 2: 19 Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well: the devils also believe, and tremble. 20 But wilt thou know, O vain man, that faith without works is dead?

It’s one thing to have faith and trust God when you’re offended, but to deal with the offender, you have to use your faith.

Matthew 17: 19 Then came the disciples to Jesus apart, and said, Why could not we cast him out? 20 And Jesus said unto them, Because of your unbelief: for verily I say unto you, If ye have faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye shall say unto this mountain, Remove hence to yonder place; and it shall remove; and nothing shall be impossible unto you.

III. The Impossibility of The Offenses (Increase Faith)

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

● When we are offended, we need faith to trust God to reward us
● When we deal with the offender, we need to use our faith to forgive them
● Finally, to accept the inevitably of offenses, we need to increase our faith

The last challenge with offenses is that they keep happening over and over again.

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;

Psalm 34: 19 Many are the afflictions of the righteous but the Lord delivereth him out of them all

Not only will we be offended by those close to us, but it will happen over and over again.

We will be hurt over again, we will be broken over again, we will be betrayed over again, and the only way we can deal with it is to increase our faith.

Romans 10: 17 So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

Psalm 1: 1 Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful. 2 But his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night. 3 And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper.
Midweek Study Lesson Plan (Sermon: The Impossibility Of Being Offended (The Faith To Overcome))

Lesson Text

- Matthew 11:1–6, Hebrews 11:6, James 2:19–20

Sermon Outline (Notes)

I. The Impossibility of The Offended (Have Faith)

II. The Impossibility of The Offender (Use Faith)

III. The Impossibility of The Offends (Increase Faith)

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

I. Getting to Know “Me”
   1. Which do you prefer: chocolate or vanilla ice cream, red or green Jell-o, plain or strawberry cheesecake, red velvet cake or pineapple cake, sweet potato pie or pumpkin pie?
   2. Now that we are in the last quarter of this year, have you started planning for 2022?

II. Into the Bible
   1. Read Genesis 45:3–8 and answer the following: how did Joseph’s faith in God help him to forgive his brothers their offenses against him?
   2. Read Luke 17:3–4 and Ephesians 4:30-32. Answer the following: Is a sincere apology by the offender a requirement for us to forgive. Explain your answer.

III. Life Application
   1. Forgiveness is a choice. Using our faith to forgive our offenders involves a process where we can go from suffering to forgiveness. Listed below are some approaches that we can apply in forgiving our offenders. Discuss how you can use any of these approaches in your own life: a) Try seeing the situation from the other person’s point of view; b) Seek godly counsel; c) Ask yourself why the person would act in such a way; d) Reflect on times you’ve hurt others and on times you’ve been forgiven; e) Release the person from blame who offended you and pray for him or her just like you would pray for yourself; f) Journal all of this.
   2. We’ve learned in the sermon that offenses are inevitable. How can we avoid being offended?