

## **When Offense Comes Knocking at the Door – FBCG – June 24, 2018**

1 Corinthians 10:13 (NIV) - <sup>13</sup> No temptation has seized you except what is common to man. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can stand up under it.

Luke 17:1, (KJV) 3-5 (NIV) --<sup>1</sup> Then said he unto the disciples, It is impossible but that offences will come: but woe *unto him*, through whom they come! <sup>3</sup> So watch yourselves. "If your brother sins, rebuke him, and if he repents, forgive him. <sup>4</sup> If he sins against you seven times in a day, and seven times comes back to you and says, 'I repent,' forgive him." <sup>5</sup> The apostles said to the Lord, "Increase our faith!"

### **Who has recently offended you?**

Proverbs 19:11 (NIV) - <sup>11</sup> A man's wisdom gives him patience; it is to his glory to overlook an offense.

Proverbs 18:19 (NIV) - <sup>19</sup> An offended brother is more unyielding than a fortified city, and disputes are like the barred gates of a citadel.

Ecclesiastes 7:9 (NIV) - <sup>9</sup> Do not be quickly provoked in your spirit, for anger resides in the lap of fools.

James 1:19-25 (NIV) - <sup>19</sup> My dear brothers, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry,  
<sup>20</sup> for man's anger does not bring about the righteous life that God desires.

Ephesians 4:25-27 (NIV) - <sup>25</sup> Therefore each of you must put off falsehood and speak truthfully to his neighbor, for we are all members of one body.

<sup>26</sup> "In your anger do not sin": Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry,  
<sup>27</sup> and do not give the devil a foothold.

Matthew 5:43-48 (NIV) - <sup>43</sup> "You have heard that it was said, 'Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' <sup>44</sup> But I tell you: Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, <sup>45</sup> that you may be sons of your Father in heaven. He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous.

In his book The Bait of Satan, John Bevere exposes and identifies the pitfalls of an offense. As his title suggests, he believes that the most deceptive snares that Satan uses in getting believers out of the will of God is by getting them offended.

The Greek word for offend is "scandalon" which refers to the piece of the trap to which the bait is attached.

Bevere says: "One of the most deceptive and insidious kinds of bait is something every Christian has encountered – offense. Actually offence itself is not deadly – if it stays in the trap. But if we pick it up and consume it and feed on it in our hearts, then we have become offended. Offended people produce much fruit, such as a hurt, anger, outrage, jealousy, resentment, strife, bitterness, hatred and envy." "Often those who are offended do not even realize they are trapped. They are oblivious to their condition because they are so focused on the wrong that was done to them. They are often in denial. The most effective way for the enemy to blind us is to cause us to focus on ourselves".

Matthew 24:10-12 (KJV)

<sup>10</sup> And then shall many be offended, and shall betray one another, and shall hate one another.

<sup>11</sup> And many false prophets shall rise, and shall deceive many.

<sup>12</sup> And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold.

When an offense, perceived or real, comes we have been given tools and instructions as followers of Christ for how to respond:

1. Pray. Take a step back. Remember that God is with you, he's your strong tower, protector, provider and vengeance is His alone. Simply choose not to be offended, instead bring it to Jesus. Don't pick up the bait, it most likely is attached to snatching jaws designed to hinder or hurt us. Choosing not to take the offense does not always mean that you are not going to say something, or do nothing (Matthew 18, laws, etc.). Sometimes there are consequences to a potential offense, but we always need to respond in the Spirit and not in the flesh.
2. Matt 18 gives us a process to follow... Matthew 18:15-20 (NIV) <sup>15</sup> "If your brother sins against you, go and show him his fault, just between the two of you. If he listens to you, you have won your brother over. <sup>16</sup> But if he will not listen, take one or two others along, so that 'every matter may be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses.' <sup>17</sup> If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if he refuses to listen even to the church, treat him as you would a pagan or a tax collector.
3. Forgive. Forgive as God has forgiven you. Beloved, the overarching principle that we have over us as followers of Christ is that we must forgive those who have offended us, as God has so forgiven us, regardless of our feelings and their response (or lack thereof).

Ephesians 4:25-27, Matthew 5:43-48, 6:14-15 (NIV) <sup>14</sup> For if you forgive men when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. <sup>15</sup> But if you do not forgive men their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins.

4. God will and can help us through this process if we humble ourselves and allow him to do so. I find in those seasons where I am humbled and dead in Christ, that I am less likely to be offended. Joseph and Jesus are beautiful examples of choosing not to be offended. May the Lord help us in becoming doers of the Word.