

“FORGIVEN TO FORGIVE”

06-25-17

“Offenses - The Trap” - Pvb. 19:11 Handout

**God wants us to make a ‘deliberate choice’ in our life –
rather than ‘reacting’ to circumstances and people.**

What is an ‘Offense’ - ‘Anything’ (& I mean anything) that ‘rubs us the wrong way’;
to hurt someone’s feelings; a hindrance; a stumbling block that causes a fall

Word ‘Offense’ actually comes from Greek word “skandalon – -which is name for “that part
of a trap to which bait is attached” Think about that - ‘**a trap**’

-an “Offense” according to Bible, would be a deliberately laid trap of the devil to get us to fall;

I Corinthians 13:5 - AMP - “*Love (God’s love in us) does not insist on its own rights or its own way, for it is not self-seeking, it is not touchy or fretful or resentful; it takes no account of the evil done to it - pays no attention to a suffered wrong”*

Always remember, “**Offenses**” is one of the best ‘tactics’
of the devil to minimize a persons effect for the Kingdom of God.

Proverbs 19:11 from a few different translations

NKJV - “*The discretion of a man makes him slow to anger; and his glory is **to overlook a transgression.***”

TLB - “*A wise man restrains his anger and **overlooks insults.** This is to his credit.*”

NLT - “*People with good sense restrain their anger; **they earn esteem by overlooking wrongs.***”

God says if we will exercise ‘discretion’ - wisdom - good sense

-in situations involving ‘transgressions’ - ‘insults’ - ‘wrongs’

-it will be to our glory - credit - earn us esteem in life

(‘push’ to make a situations about us desiring to honor God & nothing else)

We are here primarily so other people can come to know Him -

God know that - devil knows that - but **we need to know** that!!

In 1 Samuel 17:17-29 -

*17 Then Jesse (David’s father) said to his son David, "Take now for your brothers an ephah of this dried grain and these ten loaves, **and run to your brothers** at the camp. 18 And **carry these ten cheeses** to the captain of their thousand, and see how your brothers fare, and bring back news of them."*

Remember – you can have a servant’s attitude w/a lion’s heart!

-David’s passion for God was aroused and he said - “... *who is this uncircumcised Philistine, that he should defy the armies of the living God?*”

Now here in vs. 28 he runs into his elder brother Eliab

“28 Now Eliab his oldest brother heard when he spoke to the men; and Eliab's anger was aroused against David, and he said, "Why did you come down here? And with whom have you left those few sheep in the wilderness? I know your pride and the insolence of your heart, for you have come down to see the battle."

29 And David said, "What have I done now? Is there not a cause?"

The ‘cause’ in David’s mind was that of defending God & defeating the enemy of Israel.

-David could have ‘**taken great offense**’ with the mocking insults of His own brother in front of the men in the army of Israel –

-he was obeying his father

-he was bringing food to them and their captains

-he was going to bring back word to their father, Jesse, concerning them and the battle,

Remember - “**an offense**” comes to keep us from fulfilling will & purpose of God for our life;

-that’s the whole purpose of “**Offenses**” to begin with!!

David flat-out refused to take the bait - and we must too!

It’s a trap that will keep us bound-up & miserable for hours....days.....weeks.....

Choose to “...take no account of the evil done to it - pays no attention to a suffered wrong”

David ‘knew’ God and sought God’s purpose for his life –

-That is what motivated him & insulated him from ‘offenses’.

David’s relationship with God was **by choice** -and it put him in a position that no one else in the mighty army of Israel was in – including King Saul

Never underestimate the position your relationship with God puts you in

Nurture it, invest in it – cherish it!

Ultimately, who is really behind & the orchestrator of the “**Offence**” –

- is satan, the devil, the enemy of our life

Eph 6:12 *“For **we do not wrestle against flesh and blood**, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.”*

The struggles we face in life are against - ‘*spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places*’ - spirits of rejection, fear, anger, intimidation,

Yet, “....in all these things **we are more than conquerors through Him** who loved us.”

Rom 8:38 NKJV