

#Offended

PART 2: THE PRISON OF OFFENCE

Sermon Notes

Text: Luke 9:51-55

Intro:

#'s are conversation starters. We want to have a conversation about being offended.

Offence is an event. Offended is a decision.

Offence creates a prison that locks us up and steals our joy.

1. The prison of trying to be God

Luke 9:51-55

The Jews and Samaritans had a history of offence, which made relationship impossible.

James and John assumed they had the power and the right to judge the Samaritans - they didn't.

Playing God is a big burden to carry, which leads to pain.

"It's the Holy Spirit's job to convict, God's job to judge and my job to love" ~Billy Graham.

Luke 6:27-28

2. The prison of isolation

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If you called down fire on every person who ever offended you, you'd soon be the last person on earth.

Many mental and physical issues develop when people get isolated.

Proverbs 18:19 (NLT) "An offended friend is harder to win back than a fortified city. Arguments separate friends like a gate locked with bars."

When we are offended we build walls, but those walls end up trapping us. Walls meant to protect turn into a very lonely prison.

Forgiveness is about setting the prisoner free, and realizing that the prisoner was you.

3. The prison of opinions

It is possible to be completely controlled by other peoples' opinions.

Being controlled by peoples' opinions robs our joy.

Esther 5:9-13 - Haman had all that he could ever want, yet the opinion of one man robbed him of his satisfaction.

If you want to make it easier to stay happy, make it harder to get offended.

It's not that peoples' opinions aren't important; it's just that they shouldn't be ultimate. The real opinion that matters is the opinion of your heavenly father who loved you so much that he sent Jesus to die for you and save you from your sins.

Conclusion:

How do we escape the prison of offence?

- 1) Let God be God
- 2) Offer and ask for forgiveness (Matthew 5:23-26, 18:15-20)
- 3) Understand and celebrate your identity in Christ.

Bethel Church Penticton - Sunday November 6, 2016 - Pastor Dave Funk

Life Group Discussion

Warm up:

1. How well do you deal with critical feedback (from a boss, friend, spouse, pastor, stranger)? Have you reacted poorly in the past? What's the best way for someone to offer you critical feedback?

Study & Discussion:

1. Read Luke 6:27-36 & Luke 9:51-55. What did James and John misunderstand? Is it hard or easy to love your enemies? What makes us feel the urge to take judgement/vengeance into our own hands?
2. Read Romans 2:17-21. What does this passage teach us about dealing with offence? v. 21 suggests that we should always take action against evil, but those actions should be good. What actions can believers take against some modern day evils?
3. Read Esther 5:9-13. How is it that we can lose our satisfaction because of the opinions of the minority? In what way are other peoples' opinions helpful? Unhelpful? How do we balance the need to listen to others, while not allowing their perspective to become ultimate? How can a strong understanding of your identity in Christ help you deal with offence?

Application:

1. What action will you take this week against evil (Romans 12:21)?

Prayer:

1. Pray for freedom from the prison of offence.
2. Other Requests
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