



RISE

**TO
FREEDOM**

Miami Valley
CHURCH OF CHRIST



DAY OF FASTING

JANUARY 20 SUNRISE TO SUNSET

FOR HEALING, TRUTH AND
GOD'S JUSTICE TO BE DONE





RISE

**TO
FREEDOM**

Miami Valley
CHURCH OF CHRIST

RISE

**TO
FREEDOM**

**THE DANGEROUS JOURNEY
OF OFFENSE**



Matthew 24:10-13

New King James Version

10 And then many will be offended, will betray one another, and will hate one another. 11 Then many false prophets will rise up and deceive many. 12 And because lawlessness will abound, the love of many will grow cold. 13 But he who endures to the end shall be saved.

Matthew 24:10

Other words for offense

“Stumble” ASV | “lose faith” GWT, NCV

“numbers will be turned from the right way” BBE

“many will fall away” CEB, ESV, NASB, NRS, RSV

“many will be trapped” CJB

“will give up their faith” GNT

Matthew 24:10
New King James Version

10 And then many will be offended, will betray one another, and will hate one another.

Galatians 6:8-9

8 “Whoever sows to please their flesh, from the flesh will reap destruction; whoever sows to please the Spirit, from the Spirit will reap eternal life.9 Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.”

Matthew 5:46

“46 If you love those who love you, what reward will you get? Are not even the tax collectors doing that?”

What kind of freedom do we rise to?

What kind of freedom do we rise to?

We love the agape way

We set ourselves up for offense when we require certain behaviors from those with whom we have relationships.

Proverbs 18:19 | 19 A brother wronged
(offended) is more unyielding than a fortified
city; disputes are like the barred gates of a
citadel.



An offended Christian ends up having a focus
that is inward and introspective...

An aerial photograph showing the Sea of Galilee on the left, a narrow channel in the center, and the Dead Sea on the right. The terrain is a mix of green vegetation and brownish-yellow earth. The text 'Sea of Galilee' is overlaid in white in the upper right, and 'Dead Sea' is overlaid in white in the lower center.

Sea of Galilee

Dead Sea

An offense Christian takes in life, but because
of fear, cannot release life

Matthew 24:11
New King James Version

11 “Then many false prophets will rise up and deceive many.”

Who are the many they will deceive?

Matthew 24:11-12
New King James Version

The Answer

11 “Then many false prophets will rise up and deceive many. **12 And because lawlessness will abound, the love of many will grow cold.”**

Miami Valley
CHURCH OF CHRIST



2 Timothy 3:7

7 “always learning but never able to come to a knowledge of the truth.”

Why do we focus so much
on others changing?

Betrayal

Matthew 24:10

“and then many will be offended, will betray one another, and will hate one another.”

Betrayal leads to hatred with serious
consequences

1 John 3:15

“Anyone who hates a brother or sister is a
murderer, and you know that no murderer has
eternal life residing in him.”

We Have Forgotten Greatly

1 Corinthians 6:7

“7 The very fact that you have lawsuits among you means you have been completely defeated already. Why not rather be wronged? Why not rather be cheated?”

We Have Forgotten the words of Jesus

Matthew 5:44

“But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you,”

We've forgotten the commands of God

Philippians 2:3

“3 Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves,”

Why don't we live these great
teachings of love?



Because our love has grown
cold

1 Peter 2:21-23

21 To this you were called, because Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in his steps.

22 “He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth.” 23 When they hurled their insults at him, he did

not retaliate; when he suffered, he made no threats.

Instead, he entrusted himself to him who judges justly.