

Dealing With Offenses

The Source of & the Solution to.

Wednesday, March 12, 2014

(T) Proverbs 4:23 **Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life.* Def: *Keep – Hebrew (*naw-tsar'*) *to guard, (to protect, maintain, obey, etc.)* or a bad one (to conceal, etc.):

Hebrews 12:14-15 *14 *Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord: 15 Looking diligently lest any man fail of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up trouble you, and thereby many be defiled; KJV*

This word ***Follow** –is the Greek word **Deoko** –1377 (dee-o'-ko) willfully, its forceful, *aggressive pursuit* – a **deliberate planned action**.

St: A dirty look is not persecution it's just a dirty look.

This word “De-oko” rather is a devised plan. A scheme, a thought out deliberate purposed and willful plan.

St: In other words if we are going to walk in peace, we need a plan to do so.

ST: If we are to possess this peace that we are to have with all men.

It will have to be a willful aggressive pursuit of **peace** to obtain it.

We have to have a battle plan a strategy to get and maintain this peace.

This is the same Greek word found in

I Corinthians 14:1 ***Follow** *after charity, and desire spiritual gifts, but rather that ye may prophesy. KJV*

If you want love you have to willfully and deliberately follow after love in your life. You will need a battle plan to love!

I want to share some personal stories with you tonight – If that's all right- I'm just going to be a bit transparent.

Opportunity for Personal Offence: Sonny Campbell - Jehovah witness/Al Garza – “Pastor”

***GOD SAYS “I will deal with you according to what you do”!**

ST: Sometimes you have to lay aside your own selfish pride and sometimes you may have to even say you're sorry.

ILL: Membership class conversation stolen away by pastor & then I was chewed out for it.

How about this

Have you ever categorized some one who you have never even met?

But from things you heard about them you formed an opinion? Do any of you hold an opinion about somebody that you have never even met in your life right now? How do you know if that report is correct or even true?

STORY: Best friend Kenny Bewely in High School. – Robbie Counce

St: If we want revival (God's presence) in our lives and if we want revival in our church then we must deal with things because they will restrict us from God's presence.

Hebrews 12:14-15 14 Follow peace with all men, and **holiness*, without which no man shall see the Lord: 15 Looking diligently lest any man fail of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up trouble you, and thereby many be defiled;

Def: This word **Holiness*- is the Greek word *Hagious* – which means *Separateness*

a different ness- as the church –

WE DO NOT HAVE THE PRIVILEGE OF RESPONDING LIKE THE WORLD DOES. WE ARE TO BE DIFFERENT. IN OUR ACTIONS AND REACTIONS. We are to be separate from the world.

*without which no man shall *see the Lord:*

Def: **See- herao- to see right now to be admitted in the immediate presence of somebody else.*

Without this separate, different way of living we will not see the Lord – or be allowed into His immediate presence. This is not a verse about heaven this is a verse about now for revival now– it's saying if you want to see God now. If you want to experience God now. **Then you better deal the issues of strife and unforgiveness because these things will restrict you from being admitted into that secret place. – Into His presence.**

Strife in your marriage – you wonder where the presence of God went?

What happened to the love, the joy, and the peace– that's where!

The presence of God and strife will not dwell in the same place!!

That's why some churches no longer have salvations in their altars – there is so much strife and competition that the Spirit of God cannot and will not manifest His presence in those churches. Amen! No man comes to a saving knowledge of God except that the Spirit of God draws him.

So we could read this verse like this now.

Hebrews 12:14-15 *14 Follow (Pursue deliberately devise a plane) peace with all men, and holiness, (in separateness/a different from the worlds way) without which no man shall see (allowed in – have access to his presence to taste. experience) the Lord: 15 Looking diligently lest any man fail of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up trouble you, and thereby many be defiled;*

Verse 15 Listen it takes diligence to deal with matters of the heart. “Looking diligently” – You have to stay with it- “don’t let yourself off the hook-make yourself grow up (eat your spiritual veggies) follow through on commitments, check up on yourself, set a goal, stretch yourself.

Hebrews 12:15 **Looking diligently lest any man fail of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up trouble you, and thereby many be defiled; KJV*

Def: *Looking Diligently - Compound word – **epi-skopeo (ep-ee-skop-eh'-o)**; to **oversee**; to beware: **take the oversight**
Epi – over – upon Skopeo (skop-eh'-o); to **take aim at** (spy), i.e. (figuratively) regard: scopas – its where we get our English word for- **telescope-** or **microscope**
Episkopeo epi- over / scope **one who is looking over something** – its one who has a managerial position or a supervisory role. - Bishop I Timothy 3:1= Manager – supervisor over seerer. Episcopaos the bishop or overseerer of your heart – looking diligently over the issues of your heart.

Luke 6:45 *A good man out of the **good** treasure of his **heart** bringeth forth that which is good; and an **evil** man out of the evil treasure of his **heart** bringeth forth that which is evil: **for of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaketh.** KJV*

I am a bishop an overseer of my heart. – Say that “I’m a Bishop”

Bishop of what – your heart / Couples – You can’t blame others, friends your church etc, you are the only one to say yes, or no it’s you that allows bitterness into your heart. Do a regular heart check up.

Now lets get into the heart of this message Turn with me to

Luke 17:1-10 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. **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. 6 And the Lord said, If ye had faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye might say unto this **sycamine tree,** Be thou plucked up by the root, and be thou planted in the sea; and it should obey you.

***Offense- Scandalone** – NT:4625 skandalon (skan'-dal-on) ("scandal")
a trap-stick carries the idea of a (bent sapling), i.e. snare Lit Scandal in your soul
a means to trip or cause you to loose footing.

Offenses come primarily for two reasons.

- 1) Because of what somebody **did** that you never expected them to do.
- 2) Or because somebody **didn't do** what you did expect them to do.

Our expectations!

Many people become offended at the church because the church didn't perform the way they expected the church to perform. They become OFFENDED!

Many times the very things we become offended at in others are sometime things that we are not doing very well at in our own lives.—

We judge others for the low level of performance even when ours in at an even lower level. Most often when people offend you they don't even know that they have offended you. They say something innocently or accidentally or perhaps they think they have a door of utterance with you, which in fact they really don't have. But they think they do, they think your friendship is at the level where they can open up their heart and say whatever they want whatever they truly think.

(SMALL) But in truth -for you, you're really not at that level yet. So the person has misperceived, misunderstood your relationship with them. Innocently yes, but still speaking too personally, too transparently with someone with whom they thought they could speak on that level with. Only to find that it offended the other person, or they took the information and used it against them.

In many situations the person who spoke doesn't even know that he or she has been offensive. Nobody wakes up one morning and says I going to offend as many people as I can today – **Most of the time** offenses are accidental – rarely is it intentional. There may be some people who just love to offend- I think I have met a few of them. And they do a pretty job of that.

But listen to me. When you walk with the Lord it should be hard to be offended. If your heart is right it's hard to be offended.

But all of the sudden when we are offended –**we** become the center of the universe. Our feelings, *“don't they understand how that affected little ol me”*. –

It's like when you become offended you put on a new pair of glasses. You no longer can see anything good in that person – because now you're seeing through something that has colored your view of that person. An offence (This happens in *marriages* all the time)

Two people fall in love, get married, then the wife does something that offends him- he no longer sees the good in her or what she does. Why? Because all he sees is through the discolored lens of offence- what she did to hurt him.

People do this with *churches* all the time. They become offended and they go from one church to another church, to another, all because they can no longer see the good in the pastor or the worship or whatever - all they see is the through eyes of the offence that has colored their opinion of church.

They are carrying around in them *a root of bitterness* “a offence” they are just waiting for somebody else to offend them.

When the attention is on yourself- you're probably not going to have the right attitude.

Jesus is saying that in the world we may have to deal with offences – inconsistencies, and disappointments in people, things that may offend. Jesus isn't trying to be a doom and gloom preacher. Simply He is stating that we live a world with fallible people in it. It is impossible that offences won't come.

Luke 17:1-10 *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. 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. 6 *And the Lord said, If ye had faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye might say unto this sycamine tree, Be thou plucked up by the root, and be thou planted in the sea; and it should obey you.*

Vs 3 **Take heed to yourselves: If thy brother trespass against thee, rebuke him; and if he repent, forgive him.*

***Take heed to your selves** – NT:4337 *prosecho* (pros-ekh'-o); from NT:4314 and *to hold the mind*, pay attention to, be cautious about, apply oneself to, adhere to: “Okie” – “get a grip on yourself” or just “Get a grip” – *Literal translation*.

Now when you're offended you usually want to get a grip on somebody else. You don't want to take heed to yourself you want to take heed to your wife or husband – your child, that jerk of a pastor or that friend or some other person.

Vs 3 Brother ***trespass** against you- ***Rebuke**

Def: *Trespass – violation- violate you. **hamartano** (ham-ar-tan'-o) *to miss the mark* to err, especially (morally) to sin:

Def: *Rebuke – *speak what you feel with conviction*. Come to a place of confrontation. If you're deeply bothered by what somebody did to you it's not healthy to let that thing feaster inside of you. You need to deal with that thing. Rebuke him in love – speak to him. Bring it to a confrontation.

Def: Forgive – *aphiemi* (af-ee'-ay-mee) – send forth, to go, to release – total separation or completely released from something. **LET IT GO!** Psalms 103 Removed our transgressions as far as the East is to the West – released / separated You cannot drag something back up

Let it go! Deliberate choice to put aside – never drag it out again.

If your brother violates you , Rebuke him- (go to the Lord first) sit down and talk to them. Confront, deal with. But if he repents than forgive him . Or “let it go”

- Everybody say **let it go**.

You will find out just how spiritual you are. There is something in our flesh that wants to see them suffer for what they have done to us.

We all want to be forgiven quickly– but we enjoy it when our offenders feel really, really, bad about it. To feel like they should come crawling back to us in brokenness and humility to beg our forgiveness.

Story: The **Offended person** after month's of prayer and working through the anger and the frustration the hurt. The "offender" The other person doesn't even know./ So you the offended finally decides to forgive and so you approach this person –

OFFENDED: "This is very difficult - for me to talk about. I am so hurt, you have offended me.

OFFENDER: The other person is shocked, "what did I do well I had no idea! –

OFFENDED "excuse me you don't even know what you did? that just offends me even more. How could you be so insensitive that you didn't even realize what you did to me. Haven't you felt something wrong in this relationship? – I have never been so hurt in all my life.

?- Why would you talk to somebody like that? Because you want them to feel **bad** ----- Before you **let it go** you want to drag them through some pain first. Beat each other up before you forgive each other (Spouses)

The offender may say "wow – I'm so sorry, will you forgive me for that. I had no idea".

But that's not what you wanted. That reply is deflating to your flesh and it puts the spotlight back on you. This other person is as free as can be. They just asked for forgiveness, there **fine but now are you free?** Or has it become such an issue that your going to drag it around for a long time. "He's not sincere- that repentance is not sincere. You see its because the flesh didn't get what it wanted. Suddenly you become the judge of another's person heart. You can't see what's in their heart. – Why would this other person moan and groan and roll around on the floor when just five minutes ago they had no idea about the situation. They didn't even know that they had offended you in the first place. They will not have the same level of conviction about it that you will. **And it's wrong for you to expect them to.** If they did roll on floor and grabble at your feet it wouldn't be real it would be simply to put on a show for your flesh. To perform and repent according to your satisfaction. but that is not the response the flesh wanted to hear – the flesh is waiting for the other person to say "oh God how could you ever forgive me, After what I have done to you , how could you ever trust me again? **Offended** And then your flesh says- "No - it's --- alright! – I've already worked through this. And in my great mercy, ! I've already made the choice. That I going to let it go!

Anyone know what I'm talking about here tonight? Anyone been guilty of what I'm talking about here tonight?

Now let's say that you rebuked confronted your offender and they repented, they asked for forgiveness, and so you come back to the table and you two work things out.

A couple of weeks go by and they do the same thing again. –

You begin to say to yourself “their repentance wasn't genuine it wasn't real. Or they wouldn't have done this again to me.” And so again you rebuke and you forgive them, and work through this again, and then they do it again, and you finally say how many times am I to forgive this person? Jesus answered this for us remember 7 X's 70 in a day – 490 times. For the same offence. Seven represents the number of completion. **This person is a professional offender.** If your brother offends you 7 times in a day and he repents, you are to forgive him.

Luke 17:1-10 *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. 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. 6 And the Lord said, **If ye had faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye might say unto this sycamine tree, Be thou plucked up by the root, and be thou planted in the sea; and it should obey you.***

Not a mulberry tree – two trees looked very similar but they were but they were not the same tree.

He is speaking of offence, bitterness, unforgiveness,

Now Jesus uses the sycamine tree as an example of bitterness and unforgiveness

Newer translation may say mulberry – tree that is an incorrect translation the

Greek says sycamine tree. Why did Jesus the sycamine tree? Why didn't he use the cactus? Wouldn't it make sense that unforgiveness is like a cactus sticky and painful.

Why did he say the sycamine tree- Oxford University England – Botanist?

5 Important Things about the sycamine tree

- 1) It had the deepest root structure of all trees I the Middle East. (Repeat)
- 2) This Sycamine tree grew best in Aired conditions (repeat) It was not so dependant on water externally because it's roots were so deep. It was universal it could grow anywhere & in any climate but it grew best in conditions that were dry and aired – where there had been now recent water.
- 3) The Sycamine tree was the preferred wood for building caskets –
- 4) Produced a fruit that looked like the mulberry tree but the mulberry tree produced a fruit that was sweet and very expensive. Only Healthy wealthy people ate the fruit if the Mulberry tree. But the fruit of the Sycamine tree was bitter it was the food of the poor. It was so bitter it was impossible to swallow this fruit whole. You had to nibble on it and take it out chew on it then you could come back and nibble on it and then you had to leave it awhile – it required many nibbling many feedings it took a long time – you had to chew on it and chew on it and chew on it. Before you could swallow it and it was sour, sour fruit! I6t even had in it a hint of poison.
- 5) The Sycamnine tree was not naturally pollinated, The only way the Sycamine tree could be pollinated was when a wasp came along and the wasp would inject its stinger into the fruit of the tree and when it did that begin the pollination process This tree was pollinated with a sting.

Why did Jesus use the sycamine tree?

Because unforgiveness and bitterness like the sycamine tree

- 1) Have the deepest root structure of all
- 2) It is universal grows in every climate, every culture and it grows best where there has been no recent outpouring of the spirit of God. Where there has been no Spiritual water no refreshing. Where hearts are hard and dry – that is where this grows best.
- 3) Like the sycamine tree preferred wood for caskets Unforgiveness and bitterness will kill your spiritual life. It will bury you. A person who holds on to unforgiveness and bitterness can say goodbye to his joy, His peace, and his spiritual life. This is casket material.
- 4) Just like the fruit of the sycamine a bitter person is usually a poor person. He's a poor person. Even if he is loaded with money, I have met a lot of poor rich people. Just bitter no real long term lasting relationships in their life. cling to every foul memory of every bad thing done to them in the past and they stand around and just chew on it all the time – nibble on it, and then leave for awhile, so they watch TV or eat dinner, then when they lay back down they that night again in bed they begin nibbling on it again. And Chew on it again. And leave it and come back to it – Not understanding that what they are nibbling on and chewing on is releasing poison into their spiritual lives.
- 5) Just like the sycamine was pollinated by a wasp. Do you know what pollinate this in you – What pollinates bitterness and unforgiveness in you? When the enemy comes along and uses somebody to inject a stinger into your soul.

How many have you have heard say – “I will never be stung by that person again” That sting intonated the pollination process of bitterness and unforgiveness. In their soul. That's why the Sycamine tree.

Now what do you do if this is You?

Luke 17:1-10 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. 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. 6 And the Lord said, **If ye had faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye might say unto this sycamine tree, Be thou plucked up by the root, and be thou planted in the sea; and it should obey you.**

What about me I was really hurt! Maybe you really were.

Jesus tells us how to get rid of this sycamine tree. - this is not magic – you can speak to your unforgiveness – speak to your bitterness to my feelings?

Jesus Said ye might say “ unto this sycamine tree be thou plucked up by the root and be thou planted in the sea – now why didn’t he say just throw it on a trash heap? – Because it could re root itself. He said plant it in the sea. (What happens when you put a tree in Salt water? It dies!

Say – Participle – Which mean that thou shall say, and say, and say, say, and say m and go on saying. In other words it’s an attitude that says I’m going to deal with this until it is dealt with. I’m not just going to try = I’m going to speak to this thing until it is done. And out of my life. Now why say? - Because your voice represents your authority. It is your heart – you are the bishop of your heart - you are the only one with authority over your own heart. You are the only one to say yes to offence or to say no to offence. And Jesus said you got to get involved. – So when somebody says I just don’t have enough faith- Jesus says stop that faith business. All you need is faith the size if a mustard see. And you can speak to these things. Take authority over it- Thou shalt say to this sycamine tree be plucked up by the roots - go for the roots. This is permanent removal- Jesus is not asking for a temporary pause he is saying complete deliverance. This thing will never produce in you again. Planted in the sea- and it shall OBEY YOU.

Did you know that your flesh is like a child – if you don’t take authority over your flesh – your flesh will take authority over you. If you don’t deal with your flesh

your flesh will deal with you. It will run over you , rant and rave and control you. Ever see a kid like that. You just want to spank that kid. Take authority over your flesh – Don't allow yourself to say everything you think, don't let your flesh rule your relationships.

There are some people who have let their flesh and emotions run wild for so long – they have said everything that enters in to their head for so many years. That now, for them to control that, for it (their flesh) to obey them will take them having to rise up and use their spiritual; authority. They are not going to change by accident or because they know they ought to. They are going to have to decide that this bitterness is going to leave and decide that they will forgive, and decide that things are going to be different – Because its not coming through just a laying on of hands or a some spiting yelling prayer time in tongues.

They have been in a habit of bitterness and unforgiveness too long. It's going to take an action of their will. (AMEN)

Hebrews 12: Looking diligently – hard work - **Episcopus- bishop**

Hebrews 12:14-15 14 *Follow* peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord: 15 Looking diligently lest any man fail of the grace of God; *lest any root of bitterness springing up trouble you, and thereby many be defiled;* KJV

If you're a person tonight with bitterness you are a troubled person and the Lord wants to set you free.

Healing power here tonight. Soul washing - A heart to change.

Lets pray.

Holy spirit change me

Romans 5:5 – What have you done with it? Love is a fruit Galatians 5:22