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Finding Strength When People Cause Pain - 2 Samuel 16 & 19

How Can We Become Unoffendable?

1. Lower your _____ of _____

“People will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boastful, proud, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, without love, unforgiving, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not lovers of the good, treacherous, rash, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God...”

2 Timothy 3:2-4

Everyone has a _____
I don't know everyone's _____

2. Choose to _____ of _____ quickly

“In your anger do not sin”: Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry, and do not give the devil a foothold.”

Ephesians 4:26-27

“Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.”

Ephesians 4:31-32

_____ offended is _____
_____ offended is a _____

Memory Verse

“My dear brothers and sisters, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry, because human anger does not produce the righteousness that God desires.”

James 1:19-20

3. Raise your _____ for _____

“For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God — not by works, so that no one can boast.”

Ephesians 2:8-9

When I _____ how much I've been _____
I'll have the _____ to _____ others

A Prayer For The Offended

“Search me, God, and know my heart;
test me and know my anxious thoughts.
See if there is any offensive way in me,
and lead me in the way everlasting.”

Psalm 139:23-24

Acknowledgements: Sources used in the preparation of today's message include Unoffendable by Brant Hansen, “No Offense” by Craig Groeschel, “Chasing David” by Rene Schlaepfer, and many others

MY NEXT STEP IS TO . . .

- Accept Jesus' offer of forgiveness for the first time
- Memorize James 1:19-20
- Pray Psalm 139:23-24 and ask God to reveal any offensive way in me
- Get the most out of today's teaching by attending my Life Group this week



Discussion Questions - Week #7

LIFEGROUPS

QUICK REVIEW

Thinking back to the sermon this weekend, "Finding Strength When People Cause Pain," summarize the main point in a sentence or two.

Looking at your notes, was there anything you heard for the first time or that caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?

Is there any practical step you plan on taking this week in response to the message?

GETTING STARTED

▶ On a scale of 1-10, with 1 being "never offended" and 10 being "always offended", how would you rate yourself? Have you found yourself to be more or less offendable over the last several years?

▶ Are there areas in your life in which you are particularly susceptible to offense?

DIGGING DEEPER

1. Most of us are prone to fight back when we feel we've been offended. Read 1 Peter 2:13-25. What stands out to you most in this passage?

Which of these verses do you think is most countercultural?

What example did Christ leave for us to follow?

What might it look like to follow his example in your life?

How can you be sure that in following Jesus' example, you don't merely become bitter towards those who offend you?

2. One thing that seems to pop up repeatedly in the Gospels is the disciples' tendency to get things wrong. In this case, it was their anger over the Samaritan slight of Jesus. Read Luke 9:51- 56. Why do you think James and John got so fired up by the Samaritans' actions?

How do you think you would have responded if you were in their shoes?

Are there particular people (or groups of people) in your life who are more prone to offend you?

How can you grow in grace toward those who offend you the most?

Read Mark 11:15-17. How did the disciples' response to the Samaritans differ from Jesus' actions in the Temple?

Are there times when we ought to respond like Jesus in the Temple to an offense? If so, how do we know?

TAKING IT HOME

☞ Which of the three steps to becoming unoffendable do you intend to focus on and how can the group be praying for you this week in that pursuit?

PRAYER REQUESTS