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Offense

Pastor Charles Mendenhall

"And Jesus when He came out saw much people and was moved with compassion toward them because they were as sheep not having a shepherd and He began to teach them many things." (taken from the Passion translation chapter 6)

This is the intention here today to teach the people. We are expecting to hear from the Lord with hearing ears. Father, we will be taught the word of God today and we will remember what we are being taught, we are overcomers, the word will reveal and show us those things that are to come and we declare that the word will have free course and flow forth unhindered.

Phil 4:12-13 "I know what it means to lack, and I know what it means to experience overwhelming abundance. For I'm trained in the secret of overcoming all things, whether in fullness or in hunger. And I find that the strength of Christ's explosive power infuses me to conquer every difficulty."
PASSION

Eph 2:6 "And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus:" KJV

We have been trained in overcoming all things because of who we are in Christ Jesus, when He was resurrected we were taken with Him seated in heavenly places. We are learning our position in Christ. We have received His explosive power that enables us to overcome every difficulty that comes our way.

Jesus is teaching the people the importance of getting down the basics of the principles of the kingdom power that is available to all of us. There are certain principles or guidelines that have to be followed in order for each of us to know how do the activity that we are involved with. Without knowing the principles or guidelines, we won't be able to accomplish what we are desiring to do. The same is required for us as believers to know how and what to do with the word of God and the kingdom principles for our lives. Jesus in these scriptures gives 5 reasons why

the word won't work in peoples lives but He tells about 4 different kinds of soils that the word of God is sown in. The same kind of seed was sown in each field, but the difference was the type of soil that the seed was sown in, only one kind of soil brought an abundance of fruit. The seed is the word of God. (The accounts are also found in Matthew 13 and Luke 8.)

Mark 4:13-20 "And he said unto them, Know ye not this parable? and how then will ye know all parables? 14 The sower soweth the word. 15 And these are they by the way side, where the word is sown; but when they have heard, Satan cometh immediately, and taketh away the word that was sown in their hearts. 16 And these are they likewise which are sown on stony ground; who, when they have heard the word, immediately receive it with gladness; 17 And have no root in themselves, and so endure but for a time: afterward, when affliction or persecution ariseth for the word's sake, immediately they are offended. 18 And these are they which are sown among thorns; such as hear the word, 19 And the cares of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, and the lusts of other things entering in, choke the word, and it becometh unfruitful. 20 And these are they which are sown on good ground; such as hear the word, and receive it, and bring forth fruit, some thirtyfold, some sixty, and some an hundred." KJV

Satan is going to come and either take away the word that has been sown in our hearts or try to take it away. He is not successful in taking the word from the good ground, but there are many reasons why he is able to take the word from the other types of soil and in studying we see that the reasons are usually brought about by people being offended or offending others.

Heb 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

What is offense? Many times when someone is offended they will deny that they are but there are results that show behavioral patterns if they have taken offense. Offense may come from many different types of relationships that we may have, spouses, family members or just friends and other people we come into contact with. We may not realize what is going on but we all deal with offense at some time or other, regardless of where it comes from. Offense not dealt with leads to unforgiveness and unforgiveness leads to a *root of bitterness which defiles not only us but those we are close to. Some of the behavioral patterns in regards to offense are listed in the following scriptures.

Mark 4:13-20 "And He said to them, Do you not discern and understand this parable? How then is it possible for you to discern and understand all the parables? 14 The sower sows the Word. 15 The

ones along the path are those who have the Word sown [in their hearts], but when they hear, Satan comes at once and [by force] takes away the message which is sown in them. 16 And in the same way the ones sown upon stony ground are those who, when they hear the Word, at once receive and accept and welcome it with joy; 17 And they have no real root in themselves, and so they endure for a little while; then when trouble or persecution arises on account of the Word, they immediately are *offended (become displeased, indignant, resentful) and they stumble and fall away. 18 And the ones sown among the thorns are others who hear the Word; 19 Then the cares and anxieties of the world and distractions of the age, and the pleasure and delight and false glamour and deceitfulness of riches, and the craving and passionate desire for other things creep in and choke and suffocate the Word, and it becomes fruitless. 20 And those sown on the good (well-adapted) soil are the ones who hear the Word and receive and accept and welcome it and bear fruit—some thirty times as much as was sown, some sixty times as much, and some [even] a hundred times as much." AMP

*Offense or offend taken from the Greek means to stumble and fall away, trap or entice into a trap, take the bait

Satan arranges different situations or bait for these traps that will allow us to fall into them. When we take his bait and take the offense, we are snared in the trap. It changes our behavior and we become displeased, indignant and resentful causing us to stumble and fall away. We quit being a nice, pleasant person. Satan will make sure that we become offended using someone else to make a comment either good or bad that we hear resulting in our becoming offended. Many believers will allow these offenses to cause them to fall away and quit.

As we grow and mature and move to a higher level in Jesus, carrying a greater anointing, we cannot go around being offended, we must learn how to deal with offense because they are going to come. We will be tested from time to time and how we respond is up to us, we have a choice, don't take the bait.

Most believers who become offended are over the offense in a short period of time, they realize that the offense can be dealt with. But the undesirable fruit of the behavior that is produced in them as a result of being offended all the time, constantly being troubled and never dealing with the offense, comes over a period of time.

Matt 13:21 "Yet it has no real root in him, but is temporary (inconstant, lasts but a little while); and when affliction or trouble or persecution comes on account of the Word, at once he is caused to stumble [he is repelled and begins to distrust and desert Him Whom he ought to trust and obey] and he falls away." AMP

The purpose of offense is always to cause us to fall away from Jesus and His presence, will cause us to quit trusting Him and the people in our lives that we should be trusting. We all know people who are carrying offense around.

We must be on guard about carrying around other peoples offenses, we cannot take up their offenses, getting involved or borrowing their offenses, even if that person is someone close to us, if we do Satan will take this situation to trap us as we are trying to help them.

The following scriptures give different examples of people being offended and the different situations that the people were faced with, Jesus telling His disciples what was going to happen to Him. Jesus teaching and the people who were hearing Him being offended by the word that He was sharing, they questioned as to whether He had the right to be speaking since He was only the son of a carpenter but they couldn't deny the wisdom that He was speaking, even His own disciples questioned what He was speaking and He knew their thoughts, that they were upset and offended.

Mark 14:27 "And Jesus said to them, You will all fall away this night [that is, you will be caused to stumble and will begin to distrust and desert Me], for it stands written, I will strike the Shepherd, and the sheep will be scattered." AMP

Mark 6:2-3 "And on the Sabbath He began to teach in the synagogue; and many who listened to Him were utterly astonished, saying, Where did this Man acquire all this? What is the wisdom [the broad and full intelligence which has been] given to Him? What mighty works and exhibitions of power are wrought by His hands! 3 Is not this the Carpenter, the son of Mary and the brother of James and Joses and Judas and Simon? And are not His sisters here among us? And they took offense at Him and were hurt [that is, they disapproved of Him, and it hindered them from acknowledging His authority] and they were caused to stumble and fall." AMP

John 6:60-61 "When His disciples heard this, many of them said, This is a hard and difficult and strange saying (an offensive and unbearable message). Who can stand to hear it? [Who can be expected to listen to such teaching?] 61 But Jesus, knowing within Himself that His disciples were complaining and protesting and grumbling about it, said to them: Is this a stumbling block and an offense to you? [Does this upset and displease and shock and scandalize you?]" AMP

If believers come to church with offense, it will hinder them from receiving anything from God on any level. Offense is not the thing to get involved in, it produces such ugly behavioral patterns. Hurt produces one of the types of offense and most believers at one time or the other have been hurt. We cannot let hurt cause us to miss

out on what God is wanting to do in our lives and the lives of others. Put on your listening ears so that you won't be offended and will be able to receive. Leave offense outside when you come to church. Complaining produces offense and will be a stumbling block.

Jesus has been giving the answer to us from the word, but upon hearing the answer, the word puts the responsibility on us and is not the answer that sometimes we want. We must respond in belief, there is nothing impossible to them that believe.

Luke 7:23 "And blessed (happy—with life-joy and satisfaction in God's favor and salvation, apart from outward conditions—and to be envied) is he who takes no offense in Me and who is not hurt or resentful or annoyed or repelled or made to stumble [whatever may occur]." AMP

The man is blessed who takes no offense regardless of the hurt, resentment, is not annoyed, repelled or made to stumble, regardless of what ever happens. We must resist anything that would cause us to be offended we can be happy with life-joy and satisfaction in God's favor.

Psa 119:165 "Great peace have they who love Your law; nothing shall offend them or make them stumble." AMP

1st John chapter one tells us that if we are loving the word of God and love Jesus, we can grow to the place where nothing will offend, that special place in Him. We put the word of God in first place and as we are walk in His love, nothing will cause us to stumble, we should be walking in light and not in darkness where we could stumble.

We ask for forgiveness of being offended or harboring offense, we let it go and we forgive the people that the offense came through, we bless them in Jesus name. We are to be envied since we are now free from offense.