

- I. *_Offenses_ will come*
- A. Some choose to “*_take_ _offense_*”
Col 3:5ff;
Luke 17:1a; Matt 18:7
Matt 13:53-57;
II Sam 19:19;
II Sam 13:20-22
- B. Some choose *_not_ to _take_ _offense_*
Gen 45:1-11;
II Sam 1:23-25a
- II. *_Taking_ _offense_ begins a destructive _landslide_*
- A. When we take *_offense_*, we *_create_* resentment
John 6:60-61; Ex 15:24;
Ex 16:1-2, 8; Num 14:1-2;
Num 14:26-29;
Matt 13:20-21; 15:12-13;
Ps 1:1-3; 119:165
- B. An offense *_taken_* brings *_betrayal_*
John 6:60-66; Prov 18:19
- C. *_Hatred_* happens
Gen 37:4;
Prov 10:12, 18; 13:24
Prov 26:26; Lev 19:17
- D. When hearts *_hate_*, they open a door to *_deception_*
II Tim 3:1-4; 4:3-4
- E. *_Sin_* abounds
Prov 29:18; Rom 1:18ff
- F. *_Love_* grows *_cold_*
- III. The other *_option_*: don't *_take_ _offense_*, for *_give_*
- A. Because God *_forgave_* us
Matt 18:23-27; Eph 4:32;
Isa 53:4-5; Luke 4:18
- B. *_Forgiveness_* is *_our_* choice, powered by God's *_Spirit_*

Small Group Questions

“The First Wave”
Text: Matt 24:3-14

Dave Bechtel

June 8, 2008

1. Did you know any or all of Mary, Paul and Joseph (those leaving their staff positions at Bethel)? What did you think of three staff resigning so closely (in time) together? Did you get to thank and say goodbye to any of them?
2. Can you share a time when you were “offended” by someone? What happened? How have you dealt with it since then?
3. What might it mean that the people in Jesus hometown “took offense” concerning Him? (see Matthew 13:57) What might have been another response to His success? How is “taking offense” a choice?
4. List a couple of Bible “heroes” who could have taken offense, given the situations they faced and what others did to them, but they chose not to.
5. Discuss: “The Lord can’t bless someone who is harboring an offense in his/her heart.” Can you give a biblical illustration? How about one from your life experience?
6. What is the sequence from Matthew 24:10-12 that being offended starts (the New King James is the clearest translation of this)? What does betrayal mean?
7. Why would it be that those who are offended are “uprooted”? (see Matthew 15:12-13; 13:20-21)
8. How can a believer be “rooted” so that waves of offense do not wash him away from relationships (see Psalm 1:1-3; 119:165)?
9. Did you “put to death” some offense during Sunday morning’s opportunity? If so, care to share? Is there something else in your life that the Lord would have you put to death?

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