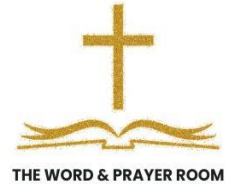


Give Us this Day ...



Day 3: ... Freedom from Offence

Because what we don't let go of will eventually lead us.

Key Scripture: Luke 17:1 (NKJV)

"Then He said to the disciples, 'It is impossible that no offences should come, but woe to him through whom they do come!'"

Context: When the Offence Finds a Home

Before Jesus warned His disciples in Luke 17:1 that "it is impossible that no offences should come," He had just been confronting the Pharisees in Luke 16. They were lovers of money, proud of their outward righteousness, but blind to the condition of their hearts. Through stories like the shrewd manager and the rich man and Lazarus, Jesus exposed how arrogance, entitlement, and self-interest had hardened them. Then, turning to His disciples, He shifted the focus: You've seen how offence looks in others - now guard your own heart. He was essentially saying, "You can't stop offence from coming, but you can stop it from staying." Because offence doesn't begin with someone else's behaviour - it begins with our reaction to it.

Let's be honest - we all get offended. Some of us are living offended, some are healing from offence, and some are still pretending we're over it when our hearts say otherwise. Jesus didn't say *if* offences come - He said *when*. That means they're guaranteed. You can't pray offence away; you can only choose how to respond when it shows up. Offence is inevitable, but staying offended is optional. It often starts small: a comment, a tone, a moment where you felt dismissed or disrespected. You tell yourself you've moved on, but then the replay starts - the same scene, the same feeling. And just like that, offence finds a home. It builds a room in your heart, and before long, you're living in it.

Here's the truth: offence feels like protection, but it's really a prison. You think you're building walls to keep pain out, but you're really trapping peace inside. You think holding on keeps you strong, but it actually keeps you stuck. We can't walk in grace while dragging grudges. We can't live in freedom while feeding bitterness. The person who offended you may never apologise - but your healing doesn't depend on their words; it depends on your release. The test isn't in how they treated you - it's in how you respond. Because offence doesn't just reveal who hurt you; it reveals what still has power over you.

Focus of the Day: Let Go Before It Grows

Freedom doesn't come from replaying the story; it comes from releasing it. You can't walk into your future while chained to your past, and yet, many of us keep dragging dead weight into new seasons, wondering why joy feels so heavy. Offence grows quietly. It starts as a feeling, becomes a thought, then shapes your tone, your posture, your perspective. It hardens your prayers, poisons your peace, and distances you from people who had nothing to do with your pain. You say you've moved on, but your reactions tell another story.

Letting go isn't weakness - it's warfare. It's choosing healing over history. It's deciding that you will no longer give yesterday permission to dictate today. Because the truth is, what you don't release, you start to resemble. And here's the hardest part: forgiveness doesn't always feel fair - but neither does grace. Let go - not because they deserve it, but because you do. Because you can't carry offence and anointing at the same time. Because your future is too expensive to be held hostage by what hurt you.

Why we struggle with Offence

- Because offence gives us a false sense of control.
- Because it feels easier to hold pain than to trust God with it.
- Because pride wants justice more than healing.
- Because we confuse boundaries with bitterness.
- Because forgiveness feels unfair - until we remember the Cross.

Verse Breakdown: Luke 17:1 (NKJV)

- **"It is impossible that no offences should come..."** Jesus doesn't soften the truth. Conflict, disappointment, and hurt are part of life. You can't live offence-free, but you can live free from being offended.
- **"...but woe to him through whom they do come!"** Jesus adds accountability. We can't always prevent offence from coming to us, but we can choose not to be the one who carries or spreads it. A healed heart doesn't infect others.
- **Cross Reference – Matthew 18:7 (NLT)** "What sorrow awaits the world, because it tempts people to sin. Temptations are inevitable, but what sorrow awaits the person who does the tempting." Offence is contagious. How we handle ours teaches others how to handle theirs.

Key Themes

- Offence is inevitable, but staying offended is a choice.
- Forgiveness is strength disguised as surrender.
- Pride builds walls; grace builds bridges.
- What you hold onto starts to hold onto you.
- Healing begins when you stop rehearsing and start releasing.

Practical Application

- **Step 1: Acknowledge the Offence.** Be honest about where it hurt. Healing begins where honesty lives. Write it down, name it, and hand it to God.
- **Step 2: Pray the Hard Prayer.** Ask God to bless the person who hurt you. You may not feel ready, but prayer weakens offence's grip each time you speak it.
- **Step 3: Choose to Release Daily.** Forgiveness isn't a moment; it's maintenance. Every time the memory resurfaces, remind yourself: I've already let that go.

Did You Know?

Research shows that unresolved anger activates the same stress response as trauma - raising blood pressure, suppressing the immune system, and disrupting sleep. Spiritually, it does the same: offence drains your peace and blocks your growth. Forgiveness doesn't erase the past - it reclaims your future.

Prayer

Father, give me the courage to release what I can't control. Heal the parts of me still tied to offence. Teach me to forgive quickly and fully, the way You forgive me. Break the cycle of replaying the pain, and fill me with the peace that comes from letting go. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Declaration

- I refuse to let offence live where peace belongs.
- I choose to forgive, even when it still hurts.
- I walk in freedom because I've let it go.

 **Final Takeaway:** Offence is inevitable, but captivity is not. You can't walk free if you keep holding the key. So today, Lord, ***give us this day freedom from offence.***