



Pastor David's Weekly Devotional

Today, in many circles, it seems as though offending someone is viewed as the worst possible thing a person can do. In fact, to be offended has been lofted to almost virtue status. Some people are easily and often offended. It is as if they have an “offense radar” that is always scanning to detect if they are being slighted or if their feelings are being hurt. They are offended if someone thinks differently than they do, acts in a way that is unbecoming to them, or expresses a view that is contrary to their own. When this happens, they will quickly seek to silence the person by crying out, “I am offended” or “That offends me!” (ironically, and hypocritically, with little or no regard for the fact that their views, actions, and speech might be offensive to anyone else).

The truth is, being offended says as much about you as it does the one you deem to be offensive. Those who are easily or often offended are terribly arrogant and fragilely insecure. They cannot, or will not, tolerate someone with an opposing viewpoint, and they all-too-quickly crumble when someone wounds their delicate self-esteem. Make no mistake, this is usually nothing more than a defense mechanism. The goal is to protect – at all costs – one’s own beliefs and passions.

In the New Testament, we find that Jesus was accused of being offensive. But this did not silence Him from speaking the truth or alter His pursuit of godliness. In fact, He stated: “... *blessed is the one who is not offended by me*” (Matt.11:6). Jesus’ apostles once approached Him saying, “*Do you know that the Pharisees were offended when they heard this saying?*” (Matt.15:12)? Jesus had condemned the self-righteous religion of the Pharisees. Far from changing or canceling His message, Jesus said to the apostles: “*Every plant that my heavenly Father has not planted will be rooted up. Let them alone; they are blind guides. And if the blind lead the blind, both will fall into a pit*” (Matt.15:13-14).

When Jesus graphically declared that no one can be saved apart from receiving Him as Lord and Savior – “*Truly, truly, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you*” (Jn.6:52) – many of His “disciples” found His teaching too difficult and grumbled about what Jesus had said (Jn.6:60-61). He asked them, “*Do you take offense at this?*” (Jn.6:61). This was a rhetorical question because He knew what they were thinking and saying. Jesus then equated those who were offended by Him, and by His teaching, as unbelievers (Jn.6:64).

To be sure, Jesus was never needlessly or sinfully offensive (Matt.18:5-6; 1Cor.8:12-13). But He also never changed His message or compromised His godly life. As John MacArthur explained: “[Jesus] was not interested in increasing the ranks of halfhearted disciples. His preaching had one aim: to declare truth, not to win accolades from the audience. For those who were not interested in hearing the truth, He did not try to make it easier to receive. What He did instead was make it impossible to ignore. People who heard Jesus preach could not walk away indifferent. Some left angry, some were deeply troubled by what He had to say, many had their eyes opened, and many more hardened their hearts against His message. Some became His disciples, and others became His adversaries” (*Jesus Unleashed*, p.115-116).

Like Jesus, we must live lives of uncompromising faithfulness to God. While we are called to speak “*the truth in love*” (Eph.4:15), and to be unashamed of the Gospel of Jesus Christ (Rom.1:16; 2Tim.1:8). Those who reject Jesus are those who will be offended by the truth of the Gospel. Our task is not to make Christ (or the Gospel) less offensive, or more palatable, but “*to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord*” (Col.1:10).

Together in and for Christ,
Pastor David
(12/29/25)

Scripture Readings for the Week (Monday – Sunday ~ Week #52):

Deuteronomy 32-34; Esther 6-10; Psalm 149-150; Song 7-8; Revelation 18-22; Acts 27-28; Jude

Recommended Reading:

“Jesus Unleashed” by John MacArthur