

## The Cost of Offense (Part II)



*And then shall many be offended and shall betray one another, and shall hate one another. -Jesus Christ (Mathew 24:10)*

At the end of the book of Mathew, Jesus describes the condition of the world that we live in. He said that offense and betrayal would be everywhere. Well. Jesus didn't tell us any lies. Offense is the very bait that the devil uses to entangle God's children. The bible warns us to not be "*ignorant of Satan's devices*" (2nd Cor 2:11).

When offense comes we must understand that it is a trap of the devil. The devil is using that person to get you upset. I understand that what they said may have hurt you. I understand that they told vicious lies on you. I understand that person wanted to see your demise. This was no accident. This

was an act of very ill intentions. However, we must remember that our Faith is energized by our LOVE. You have too much on the line. There are some of us that needed a miracle yesterday! There are situations in our lives that only God can fix. We need the Power of God to be active in our lives. Offense will prolong or block God's blessing in our lives. Is it worth it?

*A brother offended is harder to be won than a strong city and their contentions are like the bars of a castle. (Proverbs 18:19)*

In the days of the bible, strong cities would have huge, massive walls that would surround the whole city. Sometimes these walls would be so big that the city would hold chariot races at the very top of the walls. That gives us an idea of how thick the walls were. When someone is offended the bible says it is very difficult to reason with that person. Offense carries with it a "spirit of isolation". The offended person's mind has enclosed themselves in a mountain of false justification. Again, what they did to you was definitely wrong, but if you choose to be offended, it will surely cost you more than you want to spend.

One of the most powerful ministries in the bible was that of John the Baptist. John had a unique call of God on his life. His call was to prepare the way of the Lord. Throughout John's ministry he often would praise and tell people about our wonderful Savior. As great as John the Baptist was, he alluding to the supremacy of Jesus, said that he wasn't even worthy enough to untie the shoe's of Jesus.

Unfortunately, we find that John's life ended in a very inhumane way. John died in prison by getting his head chopped off. There were several events that led to his demise. Nevertheless, I believe God may have shown me the underlying cause of John's misfortune. As the ministry of Jesus began to grow the bible says that Jesus' fame spread throughout the whole land. While John was in prison he sent two of his disciples to Jesus and John instructed them to ask him. "*Are you the one that should come, or do we look for another?*"

If anyone knew the true identity of Jesus, John did. How insulting it was to Jesus for John to ask if we need to look for someone else to save us. Jesus did not let this attack of offense stop him in any way. In fact, Jesus still praised John for his accomplishments in his ministry. Jesus told them. “*And blessed is he, whosoever shall not be offended in me*” ( Mathew 11:6).