



5 DAY DEVOTIONAL

SERIES: THE LURE OF SATAN

Sermon 3: The Real Man's Journey Through Offense

SPEAKER: REV. CHRIS SMITH | 7/27/2025 | PAGE 1 OF 5

Day 1: Offense Will Come

Devotional: Life guarantees us many things, and one of them is that we will face offense. Jesus Himself told His disciples that offenses would come. It's not a matter of if, but when. In our journey through life, we will encounter people who hurt us, situations that test us, and moments that tempt us to respond in ways that don't honor God. When we look at David's life, we see a man who faced extreme offense. King Saul, consumed by jealousy, repeatedly tried to kill him. Saul threw spears at David, sent spies to trap him, and even pursued him with 3,000 soldiers. Yet David's response teaches us a powerful lesson about handling offense. David was no weakling. He killed Goliath, won numerous battles, and survived multiple assassination attempts. He was a mighty warrior, yet when faced with offense, he chose restraint over retaliation. This wasn't because he lacked courage or strength, but because he understood something profound about God's ways. When offense comes our way—and it will—we have a choice. We can react according to our natural instincts, or we can respond according to God's wisdom. The path of retaliation might feel satisfying in the moment, but it leads to bitterness and regret. The path of wisdom might be harder initially, but it leads to peace and God's blessing.

Bible Verse: "Jesus said to his disciples: 'Things that cause people to stumble are bound to come, but woe to anyone through whom they come.'" - Luke 17:1

Reflection Question: Think about a recent time when someone offended you. How did you respond, and what might have changed if you had viewed that offense as an opportunity for God to develop your character?

Quote: Jesus said offenses would come. Just as sure as he was standing before those disciples. He said offenses would come. But he said woe to them by who it comes.

Prayer: Lord, thank You for the reminder that offenses will come, but that You provide the grace to respond wisely. Help me to see difficult people and situations as opportunities for growth rather than just obstacles to avoid. Give me Your perspective when I'm tempted to retaliate. In Jesus' name, amen.

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Day 2: The High Road of Restraint

Devotional: When David had the opportunity to harm King Saul in the cave, he chose restraint. He merely cut off a corner of Saul's robe—and even that small act troubled his conscience. David understood something profound: just because we can do something doesn't mean we should. David was a real man—a warrior who fought in 66 battles and won them all. He survived 21 assassination attempts. No one could question his courage or strength. Yet when faced with the chance to eliminate his enemy, he chose the high road of restraint. Our culture often equates strength with domination and retaliation. We worry that if we don't strike back when offended, we'll be perceived as weak or become a doormat for others. But David's example shows us that true strength is found in self-control, not in unbridled reaction. The high road isn't the easy road. It requires us to set aside our pride, our desire for immediate justice, and our need to prove ourselves. But as David's life demonstrates, we'll never regret taking the high road. Character is built during these challenging times when we choose God's ways over our natural instincts.

Bible Verse: "But David's heart troubled him after he had cut Saul's robe. And he said to his men, 'The Lord forbid that I should do this thing to my master, the Lord's anointed, to stretch out my hand against him, seeing he is the anointed of the Lord.'" - 1 Samuel 24:6-7

Reflection Question: What situation are you facing right now where you're tempted to retaliate or take matters into your own hands? What would taking the high road look like in this situation?

Quote: You'll never regret taking the high road. You'll never regret taking the high road. When you look back over your life and the times that you've taken the high road, you don't regret those times.

Prayer: Heavenly Father, give me the strength to take the high road when I'm tempted to retaliate. Help me to trust that Your ways are higher than my ways, and that You will honor my obedience. Build my character through these challenging situations. In Jesus' name, amen.

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Day 3: Trusting God's Timing

Devotional: One of the most challenging aspects of facing offense is waiting for God's timing. David was anointed as the future king of Israel, but he had to wait many years before that promise was fulfilled. During that waiting period, he faced constant threat from King Saul. David had multiple opportunities to take matters into his own hands. He could have killed Saul and claimed the throne immediately. But David understood that God's timing is perfect, and shortcuts to God's promises often lead to problems. When we're mistreated or facing injustice, we naturally want immediate resolution. We want the offense to stop, the pain to end, and justice to be served. But God often uses these waiting periods to develop our character, deepen our trust in Him, and prepare us for the responsibilities that come with His promises. David's patience wasn't passive resignation; it was active trust. He continued to behave wisely, make good decisions, and honor God even when circumstances were difficult. He trusted that God would fulfill His promises in the right way and at the right time. When we face offense, we can follow David's example by trusting God's timing rather than forcing our own solutions. God is faithful, and He will fulfill His promises to us in His perfect timing.

Bible Verse: "Know therefore that the LORD your God is God; he is the faithful God, keeping his covenant of love to a thousand generations of those who love him and keep his commandments." - Deuteronomy 7:9

Reflection Question: What promise or hope from God are you currently waiting to see fulfilled? How might this waiting period be developing your character and preparing you for what's ahead?

Quote: Even though David was anointed king, he did not kill Saul to make it happen. He depended on the timing of God.

Prayer: Lord, I confess that waiting is hard, especially when I'm facing offense or injustice. Help me to trust Your timing and to use this waiting period for growth rather than becoming bitter. Thank You for Your faithfulness and for working all things together for my good. In Jesus' name, amen.

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Day 4: Breaking Down Walls of Bitterness

Devotional: When we're hurt by others, our natural response is to build walls of protection. We distance ourselves, become guarded, and try to prevent further pain. While this seems like a wise strategy, these walls often become prisons that isolate us from community and hinder our spiritual growth. David could have easily become bitter toward Saul. After all, Saul's relentless pursuit was unjust and threatened David's very life. Yet when David heard of Saul's death, he mourned. His heart had not grown bitter despite all the ways Saul had mistreated him. Bitterness is like drinking poison and expecting the other person to die. It harms us far more than it affects those who have hurt us. It isolates us from others, distorts our perspective, and hinders our relationship with God. Breaking down walls of bitterness requires forgiveness—not because the offender deserves it, but because we need freedom from the prison of resentment. Forgiveness doesn't mean what happened was okay or that we should put ourselves in harmful situations. It means we're releasing the offense to God and choosing not to let it control our hearts and minds. Like David, we can choose to maintain a heart free from bitterness even when we've been deeply wounded. This freedom allows us to experience God's peace and to remain in life-giving community with others.

Bible Verse: "May the Lord test me and examine me. May he judge my desires and thoughts." - Psalms 26:2

Reflection Question: What walls have you built to protect yourself from being hurt, and how might these walls be functioning more as a prison than as protection? What would it look like to begin breaking down these walls?

Quote: We know those same walls that we think are our protection become a prison. They isolate us from community. They isolate us from other people. And those walls that we think are going to help us to be a form of defense against offense become a prison.

Prayer: Father, search my heart and reveal any bitterness I've been harboring. Help me to break down the walls that have become prisons rather than protection. Give me the courage to forgive as You have forgiven me, not because others deserve it, but because You've called me to freedom. In Jesus' name, amen.

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Day 5: Finding Peace in God's Justice

Devotional: When we're mistreated, our human instinct cries out for justice. We want wrongs to be made right, and we often feel it's our responsibility to make that happen. But David shows us a different way—he entrusted justice to God rather than taking it into his own hands. David had every human reason to retaliate against Saul. By worldly standards, eliminating Saul would have been justified self-defense. Yet David understood a profound truth: vengeance belongs to God, not to us. He trusted that God would deal with Saul in His own way and time. This doesn't mean David was passive in the face of threat. He took wise precautions, removing himself from danger when necessary. But he refused to cross the line into vengeance, knowing that human wrath doesn't produce God's righteousness. When we release our right to retaliate and trust God with justice, we experience a peace that the world cannot comprehend. We're freed from the consuming fire of bitterness and the exhausting burden of trying to settle scores. We can move forward in God's purposes rather than being stuck in cycles of retaliation. Like David, we can call upon the name of Jesus when facing offense, finding a peace that transcends our circumstances. We can trust that God sees, God cares, and God will ultimately bring justice in His perfect way.

Bible Verse: "Beloved, do not avenge yourselves, but rather give place to wrath; for it is written, 'Vengeance is Mine, I will repay,' says the Lord." - Romans 12:19

Reflection Question: What situation are you currently facing where you feel the need for justice? What would it look like to entrust this situation to God's justice rather than taking matters into your own hands?

Quote: Whenever we call upon the name of Jesus, it brings a peace that this world cannot comprehend.

Prayer: Lord Jesus, I bring before You the situations where I've been wronged and my heart cries out for justice. Help me to release my right to retaliate and to trust Your perfect justice. Fill me with Your peace that passes understanding as I place these burdens in Your capable hands. Thank You that I can trust You completely. In Your name I pray, amen.

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