

"But so that we may not offend them, go to the lake and throw out your line. Take the first fish you catch; open its mouth and you will find a four-drachma coin. Take it and give it to them for my tax and yours." Matthew 17:27 (NIV)

Offensive

You are not be offensive. Why is that? **You tell me.** You want me to be a bright and shining witness for you in the world. You want me to become like you in all that I think and say and do. **Yes, I do. Was I offensive?** Well, that is a good question. Some of what you did ended up offending people. **That is true.** But, you were not deliberately offensive. It was not your desire and plan to be offensive. Speaking the truth, even with a heart filled with kindness, mercy and love can be offensive. **That is also true.** People can become offended by hearing the truth about their own thoughts, words and deeds. People can often pridefully react defensively and take up an offense when their evil thoughts, words, or deeds are exposed. You exposed thoughts and words and deeds of darkness and that caused some to repent and others to take up an offense. So, only in that sense and for that reason were you offensive. **That is true.**

Can you see a danger here in our conversation? Yes, I can. **Tell me what you see.** I could wrongly justify my causing someone to take up an offense by telling myself that I was simply exposing thoughts or words or deeds that are evil. **Have you ever done that before?** Yes, I am sad to say that I have wrongly caused others to take up an offense against me because I simply acted offensively. For that I am truly sorry. For that I ask for your forgiveness. **You are forgiven.**

What damage will being offensive cause? Being offensive will cause me to shine less brightly as a witness for you in the world. Being offensive will hinder my ability to bear fruit for your kingdom and bring glory to your name. Being offensive will eliminate my ability to minister to others and to speak positively into their lives. **So, it will be very costly for you to conduct yourself in a way that is offensive to others.** That is true.

Will you be willing to suffer wrong so that you will be able to shine brightly for me in the world? Will you be willing to experience mistreatment so that you can bring glory to my name? Will you set aside your privileges and rights so that you will be able to minister to others and speak positively into their lives? Yes Lord, I will. **That will be very good.**

Lord, you know me, I don't like to be involved in conflict. I have no desire to live in ways that are offensive to others. On my own, I'm sure I will not be able to successfully navigate my way through conflict. Give me your wisdom. Help me to not offend others. Amen

Miracles *Not Offend Them*

"But so that we may not offend them, go to the lake and throw out your line. Take the first fish you catch; open its mouth and you will find a four-drachma coin. Take it and give it to them for my tax and yours."

NIV Matthew 17:27

Miracles *Not To Give Offense To Them*

However, not to give offense to them, go to the sea and cast a hook and take the first fish that comes up, and when you open its mouth you will find a shekel. Take that and give it to them for me and for yourself."

ESV Matthew 17:27

Miracles *Don't Want To Offend Them*

However, we don't want to offend them, so go down to the lake and throw in a line. Open the mouth of the first fish you catch, and you will find a large silver coin. Take it and pay the tax for both of us."

NLT Matthew 17:27

Miracles *Lest We Offend Them*

Nevertheless, lest we offend them, go to the sea, cast in a hook, and take the fish that comes up first. And when you have opened its mouth, you will find a piece of money; take that and give it to them for Me and you."

NKJV Matthew 17:27

Miracles *Not Give Offense To Them*

However, so that we do not give offense to them, go to the sea and cast a hook; take the first fish that comes up; and when you open its mouth, you will find a coin; take that and give it to them for you and me."

NRSV Matthew 17:27

Miracles *Don't Upset Them Needlessly*

But so we don't upset them needlessly, go down to the lake, cast a hook, and pull in the first fish that bites. Open its mouth and you'll find a coin. Take it and give it to the tax men. It will be enough for both of us."

MSG Matthew 17:27

Miracles *Not To Give Offense*

However, in order not to give offense and cause them to stumble [that is, to cause them to judge unfavorably and unjustly] go down to the sea and throw in a hook. Take the first fish that comes up, and when you open its mouth you will find there a shekel. Take it and give it to them to pay the temple tax for Me and for yourself.

AMP Matthew 17:27

Miracles *Don't Want To Offend Them*

"However, we don't want to offend them, so go down to the shore and throw in a line, and open the mouth of the first fish you catch. You will find a coin to cover the taxes for both of us; take it and pay them."

TLB Matthew 17:27

Miracles *So That We Do Not Offend Them*

"However, so that we do not offend them, go to the sea and throw in a hook, and take the first fish that comes up; and when you open its mouth, you will find a shekel. Take that and give it to them for you and Me."

NASB Matthew 17:27

Miracles *We Don't Want To Upset These Tax Collectors*

But we don't want to upset these tax collectors. So go to the lake and fish. After you catch the first fish, open its mouth and you will find a coin. Take that coin and give it to the tax collectors for you and me."

NCV Matthew 17:27

Not Offend Them

Year _____ Week _____ Day _____ Date _____

Miracles – Matthew 17

In Context: *Read Matthew 17:27*

Begin With Prayer:

Here I am Lord. I Am Listening.

Meditating On God’s Word: ***(What is God speaking to your heart?)***

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Considering The Words: ***(What words speak to your heart?)***

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Praying The Scripture: ***(What prayer from your heart will you write?)***

Lord, you know me, I don't like to be involved in conflict. I have no desire to live in ways that are offensive to others. On my own, I'm sure I will not be able to successfully navigate my way through conflict. Give me your wisdom. Help me to not offend others. Amen

What It Means: ***(What questions speak to your heart?)*** *(Suggested questions for small group discussion are in bold)*

When have you conducted yourself in a way that offended others?

When have you discovered that you can win a battle but lose a war by the way you conduct yourself?

Why will you always make mistakes by relying solely on yourself in conflict filled situations?

When have you taken a pause in a tense conflict filled situation to seek wisdom from the Lord?

What prayer would you like to pray to the Lord asking to guide you through conflict?

How has the Lord miraculously diffused a tense conflict situation in which you were engaged?

How are you guarding against relying on your own wisdom when you are facing potential intense conflict?

Living It Out: ***(What action step is God guiding your heart to take?)***

Ask the Lord to help you to not give cause to offend others as you go through conflict filled situations.

Seeing It Happen: ***(What are you trusting God for in your heart?)***

Have faith that the Lord will help you to not give cause for others to be offended by you.

Get Ready To Share: ***(What can you share with others from your heart?)***

Share with another person or your small group how the Lord has helped you to not be offensive to others.

Close With Prayer: ***Quiet Yourself Before The Lord***

Pause And Offer Prayers Of...

With An Attitude Of Faith Listen To What The Lord Wants To Say To You

Adoration... _____

Thanksgiving... _____

Confession... _____

Intercession... _____

Petition... _____

Journal

As You Quiet Yourself Before The Lord

What Do You Want To Say To Me Lord?

What Prayers Are You Praying Today?

Prayer Of Blessing

(What Prayer Of Blessing Can You Pray For Another?)

May you not give others cause to be offended by you.

Prayer To Carry

(What Prayer Would You Like To Carry Throughout Your Day?)

Lord, help me to not give others cause to be offended by me.

What Do You Want To Remember About Today?

A Question To Ask God

(What Would You Like To Ask God?)

Lord, how can I live today in a way that will not offend others?
