



Suffering

By Deaconess Celia Yap, 16 March 2014

Tabernacle of David

Sermon Outline by Antony Tong

Main Text

Luke 17:1-4

Then He said to the disciples, "It is impossible that no offenses should come, but woe *to him* through whom they do come! It would be better for him if a millstone were hung around his neck, and he were thrown into the sea, than that he should offend one of these little ones.

Take heed to yourselves. If your brother sins against you, rebuke him; and if he repents, forgive him. And if he sins against you seven times in a day, and seven times in a day returns to you, saying, 'I repent,' you shall forgive him."

Reflections for discussions

1. Offenses are part of life and are unavoidable
2. God is more concerned how you deal with offenses ie take heed to yourselves. You are more at risk than the offender
3. God will deal with the offender

Rom 12:9

Never take your own revenge, beloved, but leave room for the wrath *of God*, for it is written, "VENGEANCE IS MINE, I WILL REPAY," says the Lord.

TWO BIBLICAL PRINCIPLES ON PAIN & SUFFERING

1. Do not Judge

Matt 7:1,2

Do not judge so that you will not be judged. For in the way you judge, you will be judged; and by your standard of measure, it will be measured to you.

Know the Bible. Follow God's opinions and judgments in the Bible. **Reflect**

2. Giving significance to the events that happen to us

The more significance we put on the offence, the more we are hurt by the offence. It is not the event of the offence but our judgment and significance of the offence that will cause the pain.

Reflect

Reflect HOW to OVERCOME offenses -

Proverbs 17:9 - He who covers *and* forgives an offense seeks love, but he who repeats *or* harps on a matter separates even close friends

Proverbs 19:11 - Good sense makes a man restrain his anger, and it is his glory to overlook a transgression *or* an offense



We wear face masks. Nobody, except the Lord, knows what is going on in our hearts, the sufferings, turmoils, hurts and pains

The Lord wants us to be responsible and deal with the pains and hurts

We should arrest the pains immediately so that it does not prolong our suffering

Pain is inevitable, suffering is optional

If we suffer from emotional pain, it becomes a window to the world and we judge the world in the light of the pain

If we do not deal with the pain fast, the pain will lead to hurt, bitterness and depression and we may eventually lose our physical health

In life, we have no control over offenses that come our way but we have complete control over the ability of the offenses to turn into suffering

We must know how to protect ourselves from offences

When we free ourselves from the pains of our past, we can actually change our future, so that our future will not be dictated by these pains

Offense *means* an annoyance or resentment brought about by a perceived insult to or disregard for oneself or one's standards or principles