



Sermon Title: Overcoming Offence

Key Scripture: 2 Samuel 10:1-5

Recorded Sermon:

<https://www.woodvale.ca/pastservices/v/overcoming-offense>

Date + Speaker: April 21, 2024; Pastor Mark Scarr

The BIG IDEA: Offence is inevitable in life; it's important to not get stuck in offence but instead rise above it with godly principles.

Starter Question:

1. If you are willing, share an emotional experience you or a loved one had. What methods helped you overcome it? Are there any specific Scriptures you turn to for guidance?

Discussion Questions to Review (observation):

2. Read Judges 11:32-33 and 1 Samuel 11:11 What do the verses tell us about a principle of offence and a possible outcome from the death of the King Nahash in 2 Samuel 10:1? Do you think King David assumed that the good relations he had with King Nahash would pass on to King Hanun?
3. Read 2 Samuel 10:2 How do you think King David and his delegates assumed the trip would go since they intended to show kindness and comfort the new king on his father's death?

Discussion Questions for Digging Deeper (interpretation and application)

4. Can you recall a moment when you felt offended while following God's will (while sharing the gospel, volunteering at church, caring for friends or family...)? Do you find it more challenging to overcome the offence when it is directed towards your personhood or when it happens while doing God's will? Why do you think this is the case?

5. Read 2 Samuel 10:3 Imagine you were sent to King Hunan to resolve the misunderstanding caused by his advisers. How would you try to change the perspective of King Hunan to prevent the misunderstanding?
6. Read 2 Samuel 10:4-5 In Israelite culture, all men wore full beards as a sign of maturity and authority. Thus, when ambassadors had their beards shaved and their garments cut from behind, they were exposed to ridicule and suffered great indignity. What aspects of your identity or personal traits would you be the most sensitive about being ridiculed? Why do you think this is the case?
7. Read 2 Samuel 10:5 Refer back to the starter question and/or question 6. How would you apply the biblical ways to overcome those offences?

Tips for Leaders:

Question 1: Validate responses and offer these other responses if not shared:

It is not a matter of 'if' but 'when' we will be offended in life. The Israelites knew this all too well, having faced the Ammonites several times in the past. With a change in Ammonite leadership, another battle was likely on the horizon.

Question 5: Validate responses and offer these other responses if not shared:

- a) *Remind the King of David's relationship with his father, the character of David, and the previous battles with Israel that the Ammonites had lost.*
- b) *Advise the king to practice patience and discernment to ascertain if the delegates were, in fact, spies before reacting with an act of declaration of war.*
- c) *Encourage the king to find another group of advisers with an opposing view so he could come to an unbiased conclusion.*

Question 7: The answer lies in the advice King David gave to his delegates:

- a) *Stay in a sweet place.*
- b) *Choose forgiveness and allow God time to work the healing in you.*
- c) *Look ahead and don't look back.*

d) *Come back stronger.*