

"AND BLESSED IS HE, WHOSOEVER SHALL NOT BE OFFENDED IN ME" --Matt. 11:6

Sermon by Donald Townsley

INTRODUCTION:

1. These are the words spoken to the disciples of John.
2. John had rebuked Herod for his sin of adultery and had been cast into prison -- Matt. 14: 3 - 4
3. John had heard in the prison the works of Christ -- Matt. 11:2
4. John sends two of his disciples to ask Jesus, "*Art thou he that should come, or do we look for another?*" -- Matt. 11: 3
5. Why did John send these disciples to make this inquiry?
 - (1) Some have thought that John had begun to doubt whether Jesus was the Messiah.
 - (2) That John was doubtful seems unlikely when you look at the evidence.
 1. He knew he was the one that prepared the way for the Lord -- John 1: 23
 2. He had called Jesus the "lamb of God" -- John 1: 29, 35 - 36
 3. He had been given witness by God when he baptized Jesus that He was the Son of God -- John 1: 32 -34
6. Others think that John was asking for the benefit of his disciples.
7. We do not know why he asked.
8. Jesus bids John's disciples to witness his works and report them faithfully -- Matt. 11:4 - 5
 - (1) This would answer John's question.
 - (2) Isaiah 35: 4 - 5
9. Then Jesus added, "*AND BLESSED IS HE, WHOSOEVER SHALL NOT BE OFFENDED IN ME*" -- Matt. 11: 6
10. Jesus was not the kind of Messiah many Jews expected.
 - (1) Many thought he would be a victorious King, overthrowing the armies from Rome and establishing Jewish independence.
 - (2) When they saw Jesus healing the sick and teaching the sinners the way of Salvation, He did not fit their concept of the Messiah.
11. Many today are offended in Christ.
12. Let us study some reasons why many are offended in Christ today.

I. HE STRESSED THE SPIRITUAL ABOVE THE TEMPORAL

1. People as a whole in the world are materialistic in their minds and lives; they exalt things that are material.
2. One who DARES to deny the importance of the material offends many people.
3. Peter had problems seeing the importance of the spiritual -- Matt. 16:21 - 23

4. Examples of Jesus stressing the spiritual above the temporal:

- (1) The Lord cast the demons out of two men and sent them into the swine -- Matt. 3: 28 - 34 -- and the swine (two thousand of them - Mark 5:13) rushed into the sea and perished; they asked Jesus to leave their city; they thought more of hogs than men. They were offended in Jesus.
- (2) Christ taught it is hard for a rich man to enter in the kingdom of God because he will TRUST in riches -- Mark 10: 23 - 25
- (3) Christ emphasized the supremacy of the soul over the body -- Matt. 10:28
- (4) Christ taught the soul is more valuable than the whole world -- Matt. 16: 25 - 26
- (5) Jesus taught that spiritual ties are stronger than fleshly ties -- Matt. 10: 34 - 37; Matt. 12: 46 - 50
- (6) He taught the kingdom must come before the temporal -- Matt. 6:33
- (7) He taught a man's life consisteth not in the abundance of things which he possesseth -- Luke 12:15
- (8) He taught His kingdom is not of this world -- John 18:36

5. Many are offended at Jesus because of His emphasis on the spiritual.

II. MANY ARE OFFENDED AT HIS CONDEMNING THE DOCTRINES AND COMMANDMENTS OF MEN

1. Matt. 15:9 -- *"But in vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men."*
2. The Pharisees were offended at the teaching of Jesus and the exposing of their error -- Matt. 15:12
3. Many today are offended when their doctrines are condemned by the teaching of Jesus.
4. Let us notice some doctrines that Christ condemns:
 - (1) Instrumental music in worship -- Eph. 5:19; Col. 3: 16
 - (2) Saved before baptism -- Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38
 - (3) Can't fall from grace -- Gal. 5:4
 - (4) Faith only -- James 2:24

III. HIS CROSS IS OFFENSIVE TO MANY

1. The cross was offensive to the Jews -- I Cor. 1: 23; Rom. 9: 32 - 33; Gal. 5:11
2. The cross was offensive to the Greeks -- I Cor. 1: 23
3. The cross is offensive to many today.
4. It was on the cross Christ suffered and bore our sins, and shed His blood -- I Pet. 2:24; I Pet. 3:18; John 19: 33 - 34
5. Christ took the law out of the way nailing it to His cross -- Col. 2:14
6. The New Testament was sealed at the Cross -- Matt. 26:28; Heb. 9: 16 - 17, 23
7. At the cross the church was purchased -- Acts 20:28

IV. HIS CONDITIONS FOR SALVATION IS OFFENSIVE TO MANY

1. Jesus gave salvation to mankind upon the conditions of:
 - (1) Faith -- John 8:24; Mark 16: 16
 - (2) Repentance -- Luke 13:3; Acts 2:38; 17:30
 - (3) Confession -- Acts 8:37
 - (4) Baptism -- Mark 16:16; I Pet. 3:21
2. Some men stumble over the conditions for man's salvation.
 - (1) They say there are no conditions -- man is passive.
 - (2) They really stumble at water baptism -- they can't believe it is essential.

V. HIS TEACHING REGARDING THE CHURCH OFFENDS MANY

1. Jesus said He would build ONE church -- Matt. 16:18
2. Jesus bought but ONE church -- Acts 20:28
3. The apostles taught there is but ONE church:
 - (1) Paul said there is "*one body*"-- Eph. 4:4
 - (2) The body and church are one and the same -- Eph. 1: 22 - 23
 - (3) We are reconciled unto God in "*one body*" -- Eph. 2:16

CONCLUSION

1. Many today are displeased with Christ because He does not fit their image of Him.
2. Let us accept Christ as He is.
3. "*Blessed is he whosoever shall not be offended in Me*" --Matt. 11:6