

## OFFENDED AT JESUS

Text: Matthew 15:10-14

INTRO: W.E. Vine tells us that the Gk word translated by the Eng word “offend” in our text is used “ordinarily of anything that arouses prejudice, or becomes a hindrance to others, or causes them to fall by the way. Sometimes the hindrance is in itself good, & those stumbled by it are the wicked.” We should never say or do anything with the intention of causing a person to stumble—but if he stumbles at the truth, there may be nothing we can do to prevent it.

The prophet foretold of Jesus: Isa 8:14-15, He will be as a sanctuary, but a stone of stumbling & a rock of offense to both the houses of Israel, as a trap and a snare to the inhabitants of Jerusalem. And many among them shall stumble; they shall fall and be broken, Be snared and taken."

For the next few minutes, let us look at some things about Jesus that some allowed to hinder them from following Him.

### I. SOME WERE OFFENDED BECAUSE OF WHERE HE LIVED.

John 1:46, And Nathanael said to him, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" Philip said to him, "Come and see."

John 7:52, They answered and said to him, "Are you also from Galilee? Search and look, for no prophet has arisen out of Galilee."

### II. SOME WERE OFFENDED BECAUSE OF HIS OCCUPATION & FAMILY BACKGROUND.

Mark 6:1-3, Then He went out from there and came to His own country, & His disciples followed Him. And when the Sabbath had come, He began to teach in the synagogue. And many hearing Him were astonished, saying, "Where did this Man get these things? And what wisdom is this which is given to Him, that such mighty works are performed by His hands! Is this not the carpenter, the Son of Mary, & brother of James, Joses, Judas, & Simon? And

are not His sisters here with us?" And they were offended at Him.

### III. SOME WERE PUT OFF BY HIS LACK OF FORMAL EDUCATION.

John 7:12-16, And there was much complaining among the people concerning Him. Some said, "He is good"; others said, "No, on the contrary, He deceives the people." However, no one spoke openly of Him for fear of the Jews. Now about the middle of the feast Jesus went up into the temple and taught. And the Jews marveled, saying, "How does this Man know letters, having never studied?" Jesus answered them and said, "My doctrine is not Mine, but His who sent Me.

### IV. SOME WERE GREATLY DISPLEASED BY HIS ACTIONS.

#### A. He ate with sinners.

Matt 9:10-13, Now it happened, as Jesus sat at the table in the house, that behold, many tax collectors & sinners came & sat down with Him & His disciples. And when the Phar-isees saw it, they said to His disciples, "Why does your Teacher eat with tax collectors & sinners?" When Jesus heard that, He said to them, "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. But go and learn what this means: 'I desire mercy AND not sacrifice.' For I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners, to repentance."

#### B. He permitted a sinful woman to touch Him.

Luke 7:39, Now when the Pharisee who had invited Him saw this, he spoke to himself, saying, "This man, if He were a prophet, would know who & what manner of woman this is who is touching Him, for she is a sinner."

C. He healed people on the Sabbath.

John 5:16-18, For this reason the Jews persecuted Jesus, & sought to kill Him, because He had done these things on the Sabbath. But Jesus answered them, "My Father has been working until now, and I have been working." Therefore the Jews sought all the more to kill Him, because He not only broke the Sabbath, but also said that God was His Father, making Himself equal with God.

V. MANY WERE DISTURBED BY HIS WORDS.

A. He called Himself the Son of God.

John 8:53-55, "Are You greater than our father Abraham, who is dead? And the prophets are dead. Whom do You make Yourself out to be?" Jesus answered, "If I honor Myself, My honor is nothing. It is My Father who honors Me, of whom you say that He is your God. Yet you have not known Him, but I know Him. And if I say, 'I do not know Him,' I shall be a liar like you; but I do know Him and keep His word.

B. He challenged their false teachings & rebuked their hypocrisy. The Sadducees, Pharisees, priests, scribes.

CONCLUSION: Jesus did not come to insult religious teachers, nor to hurt the feelings of men & women in error. He did not come to stir up trouble or to hinder people from accepting God's truth—but He found it necessary to teach that truth in the plainest of terms & sometimes the pride & prejudice of men caused them to stumble at His truth. What could have been for them a firm foundation became a stumbling stone & a rock of offense—but it need not have been so.

1 Peter 2:7-8, Therefore, to you who believe, He is precious; but to those who are disobedient, "The stone which the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone," & "A stone of stumbling & a rock of offense." They stumble, being disobedient to the word...

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