

Taking Offense. Or Not. Message 2
“Ugly Truth/Beautiful New Things”

Luke 15.11-32, Philippians 2.13

July 15, 2012

Message Outline



A. Thinking Back

Luke 15.11-32

1. There are more than enough offenses to go around

Don't act so surprised!

2. The closer the offender, the more sensitive we are to the offense

Dial it down!

3. When we are offended, we don't have to take offense

There is another way!

4. Offense-grabbing is a slow, sure, self-strangulation

Duh!

B. The Ugly Truth about Offense-Grabbing

Luke 15.28-32

1. "I would never do that"

2. Behind my big reaction is something even bigger

I attribute meaning to the offense

Isaiah 8.12

3. There's a difference between not-taking-offense and dealing-with-offense

Proverbs 27.6, Ephesians 4.15

C. What does my Offense-Releasing or Offense-Grabbing have to do with the Death, Burial and Resurrection of Jesus today?

Philippians 2.13

New, Empowered Desire to Live for Jesus!

Jesus is Making All Things New Inside Me!

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Digging Deeper



1. You've offended others recently. What is one offense you've committed that you're thankful someone didn't hold against you? Thank God for their offense-releasing!

2. The older brother is really not that different than the younger brother in Jesus' story told in Luke 15.11-32. One wants to get his dad's stuff by rebelling, the other by rules. Neither loved the father for who he was, for what delighted him.

a. How do you see the older son's sense that his father was somehow obligated to him because of his diligent rule-keeping?

b. How do you see this working out sometime in your life, especially when life is rougher than you expected, or feel you deserve?

3. Review Habakkuk 1.5-6 and read Daniel 4.34-35. If *all things* (Babylonians and everyday offenses) have gone through God's office before coming to us, what does our offense-grabbing say *about* God? *To* God? *To* those watching us?