

#seriously—Offended by Pastor Robby Bradford

OFFENDED

(Matthew 24:10 NKJV) And then **many will be offended**, will **betray** one another, and will **hate** one another.

(Luke 17:1 NKJV) Then He said to the disciples, “It is impossible that **no offenses** should come...”

(Proverbs 18:19) An **offended** brother is more unyielding than a fortified city, and disputes are like the barred gates of a citadel.

- √ Betrayed
- √ Falsely accused
- √ Rejected
- √ Abused
- √ Humiliated

(Hebrews 2:17-18 MSG) That’s why he had to enter into **every detail** of human life. Then, when he came before God as **high priest** to get rid of the people’s sins, he would have already experienced it all himself—all the **pain**, all the **testing**—and would be able to help where help was needed.

(1 Peter 4:1 NCV) Since Christ **suffered** while he was in his body, **strengthen yourselves** with **the same way of thinking** Christ had.

(Luke 23:34) Jesus said, “Father, **forgive** them, for they do not know what they are doing.”

BIG IDEA: If we will make a choice to see people through Jesus’ eyes, we will be offended less often.

LOOKING THROUGH THE JESUS LENS

1. Remember your need for forgiveness.

(Romans 3:23) For **all have sinned** and fall short of the glory of God.

(Matthew 10:8) ...**Freely** you have **received**, **freely give**.

2. Refocus on the real enemy.

(Ephesians 6:12) For **our struggle is** not against flesh and blood, but **against** the **rulers**, against the **authorities**, against the **powers** of this dark world and against the **spiritual forces of evil** in the heavenly realms.

3. Receive God's love.

(1 John 4:19-21) We **love** because he first **loved** us. If anyone says, "I love God," yet hates his brother, he is a liar. For anyone who does not love his brother, whom he has seen, **cannot** love God, whom he has not seen. And he has given us this command: **Whoever loves God must also love his brother.**

BOTTOM LINE: God's love creates increased capacity to be loving.