

Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Sermon Road Map

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John 6:60-69

August 20 & 21, 2016

Christian, keep asking yourself these 2 critical questions.

❖ Being *offensive* and *taking offense*

- *Causing resentful displeasure; highly irritating, angering, ...* dictionary.com
 - ◆ Communication - 2 sides: the *actor* and the *reactor*
- *Objectively offensive* - disrespectful, intending harm, put down
 - ◆ Communication evaluated according to language and social norms
 - ◆ Some things **are offensive**, not just *politically incorrect* or *impolite*
 - ◆ Words and actions designed to hurt and destroy - harms community
- *Taking offense* - not view charitably or blame the messenger of the truth
 - ◆ When you feel offended: Pause and think, *Why am I offended?*
 - Because the truth hurt? Don't be offended. Repent.
 - Because: I jumped to a conclusion not intended?
 - Because: It was a lie disguised as truth/fact designed to harm
 - ◆ In honor cultures - time of duels, gangs, etc. - offensive is deadly
 - ◆ Jesus teaches us how to love both the offensive and those taking offense
 - ◆ Spirit of forgiveness, value them (love), recognize their slavery to sin
 - ◆ Our culture thinks: *I have the right to believe whatever I choose!*
 - ◆ You may have the civil right, but can't trample rights of others - liable
 - ◆ Before God, your *right* to be a **fool** makes you a resident of *Darkness*

⁶¹ *Aware that his disciples were grumbling about this, Jesus said to them, "Does this offend you?... The words I have spoken to you are spirit and they are life. ⁶⁴ Yet there are some of you who do not believe."*

- Not the hostile Jewish leaders - people who had followed Jesus!
- But when Jesus' words were *hard to swallow*, they followed *their way*
- Calling yourself a Christian doesn't make you one. Following Jesus does!

❖ Are you offended by Jesus and his words?

- What makes some of Jesus' teachings *hard teachings*?
 - ◆ It's not their lack of clarity. It's **clearly offensive!**
 - Human reason - doesn't fit our thinking / ignores clarifying context
 - ◆ Offensive: *scandalize = death trap*
 - Jesus' teachings are designed to be a death trap to the sinful nature
 - Jesus needs to kill the old sinful nature to give new life!
 - The sinful nature: *hostile to God, doesn't and can't submit to him!*

- Christians rely on the reality: *The words [Jesus has] spoken... are spirit and they are life. ... "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. ⁶⁹ We believe and know that you are the Holy One of God."*
 - ◆ When a person sees the facts:
 - Jesus is from heaven. He is the True and Living God.
 - Proved by his miracles and how he fulfills all God's promises
 - His words are not just ideas - but life giving, giving eternal life.
 - ◆ We don't pick and chose his teachings. We choose him - all of him!
 - Those who belong to Jesus humbly submit to every word of Jesus
 - Even when struggling with a hard teaching, we submit to find life.
 - Where his word reigns, life springs up full and eternal.
 - Eagerly anticipating what God's word will work - we gladly submit.

❖ You do not want to leave Jesus too, do you?

- The form of Jesus' question anticipates the answer, **No - no way!**
- So why keep on asking the question?
 - ◆ If we don't, we might find ourselves in step with those who've left him.
 - ◆ Joining "Christians" who dismiss some teachings as *out of touch...*
- Every *hard teaching* is intended to call us to life.
 - ◆ To spotlight that *God's ways are higher than our ways.*
 - ◆ To remind us not to rely on our ideas, feelings, thinking - but his word!
 - ◆ To crush our sinful nature and replace it with new life in Jesus.
- Examples of teachings of Jesus that offend sinners:
 - ◆ From heaven, *swallow* his incarnation, Jesus alone saves...
 - ◆ Jesus' simple clear teachings on Baptism and Communion. No, *yes but*
 - ◆ God designed people, marriage & the marriage bed. Honor his will.
 - ◆ It's not your body! God made it. Jesus redeemed it. Honor the Owner.
- **You have the words of eternal life.** Why give up a single word?
 - ◆ God's Law crushes and kills our sin - so the Gospel can give new life.
 - ◆ Choosing to ignore any word of Jesus - creates separation (dead spot)
 - ◆ Remind yourself Jesus' words are not offensive! They give life.

Christian, keep asking yourself these 2 critical questions.

Then join believers of every age in saying with your words, deeds, and attitude: *"Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. ⁶⁹ We believe and know that you are the Holy One of God."*