

# Summary

In this sermon, Pastor Kevin explores the theme of spiritual sight and the danger of offense as a barrier to our faith journey. Using a personal story of riding a bike in darkness, he illustrates how we need God's word as light for our path rather than relying on our feelings. The sermon centers on Mark 7:24-37, where Jesus encounters a Syrophenician woman seeking healing for her demon-possessed daughter and later heals a deaf man. Through these stories, Pastor Kevin emphasizes that greater faith makes us less offendable, and that carrying offenses prevents us from effectively living out God's mission. He challenges listeners to lay down resentments and grudges that hinder their spiritual sight and mission effectiveness.

## Intro Prayer

Heavenly Father, as we gather to discuss Your Word today, we ask that You would open our hearts and minds to receive what You have for us. Just as You gave sight to the blind and opened the ears of the deaf, we pray that You would remove any spiritual blindness in our lives. Help us to recognize where we may be carrying offenses that prevent us from seeing You clearly and living out Your mission effectively. Guide our conversation today, and may each person leave with a renewed perspective on how to walk in freedom from offense. In Jesus' name, amen.

## Ice Breaker

What's something small that tends to annoy you but you try not to let it bother you?

## Key Verses

1. Mark 7:28
2. Psalm 119:105
3. Luke 17:1
4. 2 Timothy 2:24-26
5. Galatians 3:28

## Questions

1. The pastor said, 'The greater faith we have, the less offendable we are.' How have you found this to be true or challenging in your own life?
2. In the story of the Syrophenician woman, what qualities did she demonstrate that we can learn from in our approach to Jesus?
3. How does our cultural context of being easily offended and outraged affect our ability to see spiritually?
4. The sermon mentioned that 'we can't carry the cross and carry a grudge at the same time.' What does this mean practically in your daily life?

5. How might focusing on offenses blind us to the miracles God is doing around us?
6. What's the difference between experiencing an offense and choosing to carry that offense? How do we recognize when we've picked up an offense?
7. The pastor mentioned both 'superiority complex' and 'inferiority complex' as ways to miss the Gospel. Which do you find yourself more prone to, and why?
8. If you knew Jesus was coming back tomorrow, what offenses would you let go of today? What's stopping you from letting them go now?

## Life Application

This week, identify one offense or grudge you've been carrying - whether against a person, a group, or even against God. Write it down on a piece of paper. Then, in a deliberate act of surrender, pray over it and physically destroy the paper (tear it up, burn it safely, etc.) as a symbol of releasing that offense. Each time the offense tries to resurface in your thoughts, remind yourself that you've chosen to lay it down at the cross. Notice how this practice affects your spiritual sight and your ability to engage in God's mission throughout the week.

## Key Takeaways

1. When things are darkest, that's not the time to let our feelings dictate our path - we need God's Word to light our way.
2. The bait of Satan is taking offense - when we pick up and carry offenses, we fall into a trap that produces negative fruit in our lives.
3. The greater faith we have, the less offendable we are - persistent faith, like that of the Syrophenician woman, looks past potential offense to focus on Jesus.
4. We can't carry the cross and carry a grudge at the same time - our mission is too important to be hindered by resentment.
5. We can choose to be overwhelmed with offense or overwhelmed with amazement at what God is doing - we tend to find what we're looking for.

## Ending Prayer

Lord Jesus, thank You for showing us through Your Word how offense can blind us spiritually. We confess the times we've picked up offenses and carried grudges that have hindered our relationship with You and others. Thank You for bearing divine retribution on the cross so that we could be free. As we leave this discussion, help us to lay down our offenses at the foot of the cross. Give us eyes to see, ears to hear, and hearts that are open to Your work in and through us. Strengthen our faith so that we become less offendable and more effective in Your mission. May we be overwhelmed not with offense but with amazement at Your goodness. In Your name we pray, amen.