

Dont Drink the Poison Pt 3: Distracted

Intro/ recap:

-Anger & Resentment are a poison we drink hoping to hurt someone else.

-Anger and Resentment are spawned by Offense.

-As we discussed last week Unmanaged Expectations are a Fast-track to Offense.....

-But at the end of the day there is a difference between Feeling Offended and Choosing to Live offended.

-Pour Glass of Poison and illustrate choice

-It is our right to drink this and get all bent out of shape

-But if we CHOOSE to PASS on it,,, To IGNORE OFFENSE, we choose PEACE,,, and BLESSING....

-Proverbs 19:11 Good sense makes one slow to anger, and it is his glory to overlook an offense. (Esv)

-Last week we got Practical about HOW to overlook offense.

-Learning to Manage Expectations

-Today we will go into the results either way:

-what happens when we dont manage expectation

-what happens when we do

-Story of Namaan: -2 Kings 5

-Setting: 800 years before Jesus,,,,,, Israel divided & declining

-Israel in the North & Judah in the South

-The Northern Kingdom is being pinched the Syrian Empire

-as Syria expanded it's reach, Israel knew it was just a matter of time.....

-Namaan, was the man responsible for the power of the Syrian Empire

-he was a great and powerful General,,, BUT HE HAD LEPROSY

-the Syrians lacked the knowledge of communicable diseases, God had given Israel, so Namaan continued in society and in his role....

- Syrian raiders stole a bunch of people from Israel and sold them as slaves
- One of those slave girls ended up serving in Namaan's household
- She tells Namaan there is a prophet in Israel who can HEAL HIS LEPROSY

- Namaan comes to Israel to the Prophet Elisha,,, in a GRAND PARADE....
- Namaan arrives at Elisha's house,,, and Elisha simply sends his servant out to tell Namaan to go to the Jordan River and dip 7 times.

-Namaan is OFFENDED:

-2 Kings 5:11-12 But Naaman was angry and went away, saying, "Behold, I thought that he would surely come out to me and stand and call upon the name of the Lord his God, and wave his hand over the place and cure the leper. 12 Are not Abana and Pharpar, the rivers of Damascus, better than all the waters of Israel? Could I not wash in them and be clean?" So he turned and went away in a rage.

-Couple of reasons Namaan was offended:

- He was important, and Elisha sent out a servant to meet him....
- He had imagined some "Cool Spiritual Moment, with some Mr. Miagi healing hands". (Mystical, powerful, and dignified)
 - instead he was told to take a bath in a river: *stupid and pointless*
 - I mean he had takes dozens of baths in his life. :)

-Whatever the reasons, the point remains: this encounter was not what he expected and he stormed off, Offended.

- he was ready to give up on the whole "healing idea" because of this offense

Being drawn into offense distracts us from important things.

-Drinking this glass will turn your focus away from things that actually matter.

- The journey to visit Elisha took about a month, one way.
- But this trip could change his whole life, and actually save his life.
 - Nobody in Syria had ever heard of, or even considered healing from Leprosy...
 - this wasn't a thing.....
 - But when he heard there was a prophet in Israel who Healed things like Leprosy, it became THE MOST IMPORTANT pursuit of his life

-Namaan would have seen countless people Rot and Die from Leprosy.

-He knew where this was headed.

-But now he was given hope of a normal life & a normal life span. You can imagine, this quickly became everything to him.

-Knowing how important healing was to Namaan, it's remarkable how quickly Offense distracted him from it.

- We are like Cats and Devil is Using a Red Laser Light.....

-We may be tempted to think Namaan was silly, but how often are we similarly distracted?

-i have seen people risk their lives, the lives of others,,, and potentially throw their whole life with criminal indictment ,,,, , Road Rage....

-how often do we risk permanent damage to business and work relationships because we react to an offense..... (we lose sight of the big picture....)

-the same things happens in family relationships,,, in marriage

-Thanksgiving is coming:

-all this work is going to go into this special day with

-but how many of these special days will turn into MINE FIELDS of Offense

-as people talk about Presidency, Covid, or Supreme Court, or BLM protests

-relationships that we have 30-50-60 years invested in will get TRASHED, we will lose sight of their importance

-winning a debate or how offensive we thought someone was will become more important to us in the moment, than the relationships

-we will lose sight of what actually matters long term

-How often do we jeopardize or damage long term, priorities because we get drawn into short term Offense?

-especially in marriage

-and in church relationships

-In Namaan's case:

-he traveled so far -had so much wealth invested -so much at stake for him

-everything in his life HUNG IN THE BALANCE

-healing would change everything

-but he FEELS SLIGHTED and **he drinks that offense, and** storms off

Being drawn into offense can cause us to miss the good things God intends to do for us.

-God intended to heal Namaan.

-this process was initiated by God

-God was the one blessing him all along

-God actually allowed the raids that captured the girl

-God caused the Syrian King to be favorably disposed to sending his TOP GUY to an enemy state, asking for a favor

-Ultimately God is the one who granted Elisha's prayer for the healing

-With all God had done to arrange this blessing, Namaan's state of offense could have prevented what God was trying to do.

-How much more blessing, and How much more purpose and fulfillment has God actually sent our way?

-but in Offense we hit "Return to Sender" because of something we don't like in the human packaging and delivery system, God used.

-Maybe God intended you to be much further along in your career. Maybe God intended a far more Enriching Circle of Quality friends. Maybe God intended your Contribution and Impact through the church to be Far Greater.

-but maybe our level of Offend-ability has caused us to "push away from the table" before those things were served.

-we drank the glass and got sick, and had to leave the table before the good stuff came.

In his great mercy, God often reaches through our offense.

-Many times God uses people around us to call us to our senses.

-maybe he is calling through this message today

-Back to the story:

-Thank God for the Wise Friends Namaan had with him

- they said, "Namaan, YOU ARE TRIPPIN"
- why are you offended by how he is telling you to do this....
- Namaan Realized his friends were right & he DIPPED 7 times
- Namaan was Healed**

-Through the process of Namaan's healing, something even greater took place.

-he encountered a saving Faith in the One True God

-2 Kings 5: 15 & 17 Then he returned to the man of God, he and all his company, and he came and stood before him. And he said, "Behold, I know that there is no God in all the earth but in Israel Then Naaman said, "If not, please let there be given to your servant two mule loads of earth, for from now on your servant will not offer burnt offering or sacrifice to any god but the Lord.

-explain the 2 loads of dirt.....

-2 Miracles happened that day. Namaan's flesh was cleansed and healed. His soul was cleansed and healed eternally.

-Mercifully, God called Namaan out of his destructive state of offense.

-God was present through those friends who said "Dude your trippin"

—Thankfully Namaan's friends didn't jump on the bandwagon of Offense with him.

-It is crucial that we surround ourselves with wise, unoffendable people, rather than toxic people.

-and we should be that to our friends as well

-Pick up the glass:

-when we start pondering this glass of offense we need friends who will call us to our senses

-when our friends are pondering offense, we need to kindly but clearly say, "dude you are trippin"

-Be careful because toxicity in people can be contagious.

-Signs of Toxicity in people:

- speak badly of others.
- negative
- lack of compassion
- talk more than they listen.
- always have to be right

- self obsessed.
- gotta lotta drama
- criticize others freely
- or often play the victim

-These are traits of people who have drunk the poison, and have become poisoned.

- they will not be any help to you in avoiding offense
- in fact they will encourage you to be more offended, and DRAW YOU INTO THEIR OFFENSES with them

-Maybe you are prone to being offended.

-My prayer for you today is that you find people like Namaan had. And you hear God as he speaks through them.

- Some of us have those people,,,,, we just need to learn to seek out **their counsel** when offense is tempting us.
- Some of us need to build some relationships with some people like that,,,,, ask them about our offense,,,,, and then LISTEN....

-I have been offended before and approached someone and told them the story.....

- they have been the voice of God to me.....(they said)

"I am sure they didn't mean anything by that,, I would just assume the best and move on"

- there have been times when my response to that is.... NAH, I choose offense...

-Offense will distract you from the Good things God has for you.

-Dont keep toxic people too close. They will leak on you, and could cause you to miss some of what God has for you.

(call band back)

Namaan humbled himself, resulting in a greater miracle than what he originally sought.

-Understand the level of Humbling that Namaan submitted himself to.

- he had come all this way
- the person he came to see didn't even personally meet with him
- He refused the Instruction
- One of his servants,,, his underlings had to bring clarity and tell him what to do**
- Now, not only is he submitting to this foreign Prophet in a weaker subjugated nation ,,,, He is submitting to his servant as well.....

-Namaan had a buffet of Humble Pie to eat at this moment. Remember who he is.....

-After humbling himself Namaan received revelation about the very nature of God.

-in that time people believed in multiple national god's, regional gods.....

-His whole view of Reality was turned upside down

-Namaan realized that the God of Israel is the only God!

-he was healed, his eternal destiny changed, and his fundamental understanding of the world, God, and how he interacts with people was changed

-The moment Namaan pushed that glass of offense away, he received all he was seeking from God, plus ten times more.

-Closing

-the GU mission statement says "being moved by grace to all God has for us"

-There is so much God has wants for each of us. But, living in offense, steals from us, and diminishes what would otherwise be ours.

-think of what Namaan almost missed!

-But to push that glass away is to humble ourselves. Humility overlooks offense. We end up getting what we know we need and so much more. Just like with Namaan, God stands ready to give us things we never even dreamed to ask for.