

## Building Fences | Matthew 5:21-26

*Have you ever been offended?*

*Has someone said something that you take the wrong way?*

*Maybe they didn't include you in conversation or didn't invite you to an event.*

*Don't you just want to put people in their place when they offend you?*

*We may hear a sermon & think "I sure hope so & so is listening to this".*

*Because we want to straighten out all the stuff in them that offends us.*

*But to properly worship CHRIST & we must also know how to treat people properly.*

*A lot of times we want to change what we see in others.*

*In order to do that, sometimes we have to take our eyes off of them & take a good hard look at ourselves.*

*As I Pastor, I've learned – and I am still learning – the importance of looking at myself correctly.*

*When you give yourself an honest look – then you can fix the thing in you that cause others to be offended.*

*I want to speak with you today about – "Building Fences".*

**Matthew 5:21 ~ Ye have heard that it was said by them of old time, Thou shalt not kill; and whosoever shall kill shall be in danger of the judgment:**

**Matthew 5:22 ~ But I say unto you, That whosoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment: and whosoever shall say to his brother, Raca, shall be in danger of the council: but whosoever shall say, Thou fool, shall be in danger of hell fire.**

*Satan has an agenda for destroying families, friendships, marriages & relationships – DIVISION.*

**John 10:10 ~ The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have *it* more abundantly.**

*One of the ways that the enemy divides – is by offense.*

*The enemy doesn't make an announcement that he is at work – he starts small.*

*The people who hurt us the most are the people we are the closes to.*



*It's the little things that we do to each other that build up over time into a massive problem.*

**Luke 6:41 ~ And why beholdest thou the mote that is in thy brother's eye, but perceivest not the beam that is in thine own eye?**

*But what about the little things that we do that cause others to be offended?*

*I can be quick to be offended & I am working on that.*

*JESUS tells us what to do when we are offended.*

**Matthew 5:25 ~ Agree with thine adversary quickly, whiles thou art in the way with him; lest at any time the adversary deliver thee to the judge, and the judge deliver thee to the officer, and thou be cast into prison.**

*We are to settle the matter - QUICKLY.*

*We have to nip those little offenses in the bud - QUICKLY.*

*We have to identify those little offenses - QUICKLY.*

*We have to put the devil in his place – QUICKLY.*

*Because the devil is working to kill, steal & destroy – one offense at a time – SLOWLY.*

*So we can't wait – we must act QUICKLY.*

**Ephesians 4:26 ~ Be ye angry, and sin not: let not the sun go down upon your wrath:**

*The question isn't – “Are offenses going to come” – but rather – “What are you going to do with them?”*

*Sometimes – people just say the wrong things.*

*They may have meant a compliment to someone, but in doing so offended someone else.*

*Sometimes – people don't live up to your expectations.*

*They don't write cards or give gifts – it's just not the way they express their feelings.*

*These are small offenses – that can turn into big problems*



*GOD wants us united – not divided.*

*That's what the enemy wants.*

*It's these little things that build up over time, the small offenses that divide – just as the enemy likes.*

*Maybe the husband comes home from work after a bad day & is rude – a small offense goes up.*

**1. RUDE**

*Maybe the wife danced with the broom all day & wants adult conversation – but instead - a small offense.*

**2. IGNORED**

*She makes him feel like less of a man & he is always putting down her cooking – another small offense.*

**3. HUMILIATED**

*She wasn't invited to a social event & he has to meet the guys at the bowling alley – small offense.*

**4. REJECTED**

*I never hear from them until they want something – a small offense.*

**5. USED**

*Meanwhile – that division is growing – pushing relationships further & further apart.*

*We hold on to these small offenses – when we should be trying to stay united.*

*Now – “What God hath joined together” ~ Mark 10:9 – is now separated by - A FENCE.*

*JESUS said if you let it get to this point – your life is in danger of hell fire.*

*You are the one suffering.*

*Because you've been “Building Fences”.*



*But GOD has given us another way to deal with offenses.*

*In the example of someone who had every right to be offended.*

*In the example of someone who had every right to hold things against us.*

*But instead – said the cross was the way of relationship.*

*You have to learn to let things go.*

*You can't choose what is handed to you, but you can choose what you do with it.*

*You can hold on to it – or you can let it go.*

*This is so important.*

*JESUS said if you are at the altar & you remember that there are issues with people in your life – leave your gift & go make things right first.*

**Matthew 5:23 ~ Therefore if thou bring thy gift to the altar, and there rememberest that thy brother hath ought against thee;**

**Matthew 5:24 ~ Leave there thy gift before the altar, and go thy way; first be reconciled to thy brother, and then come and offer thy gift.**

*We've got to let some things go & that means leaving them with JESUS at the cross.*

*If we want to see changes in others, we are going to have to start by making changes in ourselves.*

**CONCLUSION:** *And that means we need to - “Tear Down The Fences”*

