

*“And they took offense at him.”*

The Gospel tells us that the crowds in his home town missed out on the message of His preaching, because instead of listening and hearing - they were offended that He spoke with such power and wisdom.

Taking offense is a slippery slope sort of thing. When we take offense, we place ourselves above another - in what can become an attitude in direct opposition to humility.

There is a book written by Evangelist John Bevere called “The Bait of Satan.”

In it he discusses how taking offense leads to bitterness and further to un-forgiveness.

As Christians, we are called to be the image of God’s love, peace, and mercy to a world filled with hatred, bitterness, and un-forgiveness. If we, instead of evangelizing the world, end up evangelized by a corrupted world - we can become surface-only Christians in dire need of repentance.

If we fail to forgive, we cut ourselves off from God’s forgiveness. May we avoid the devil’s bait of offense, lest we become self-righteous ... missing out on God’s righteousness that is ours in Christ.

Let us pray for the Light of Christ to shine deep within our hearts ... to help us root out any aspects of our lives that are keeping us from living the fullness of God’s love, peace, and mercy. In today’s liturgy, when we pray the Lord’s prayer, may we may we truly embrace the words: *“forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us.”*