

Arrows When Offended

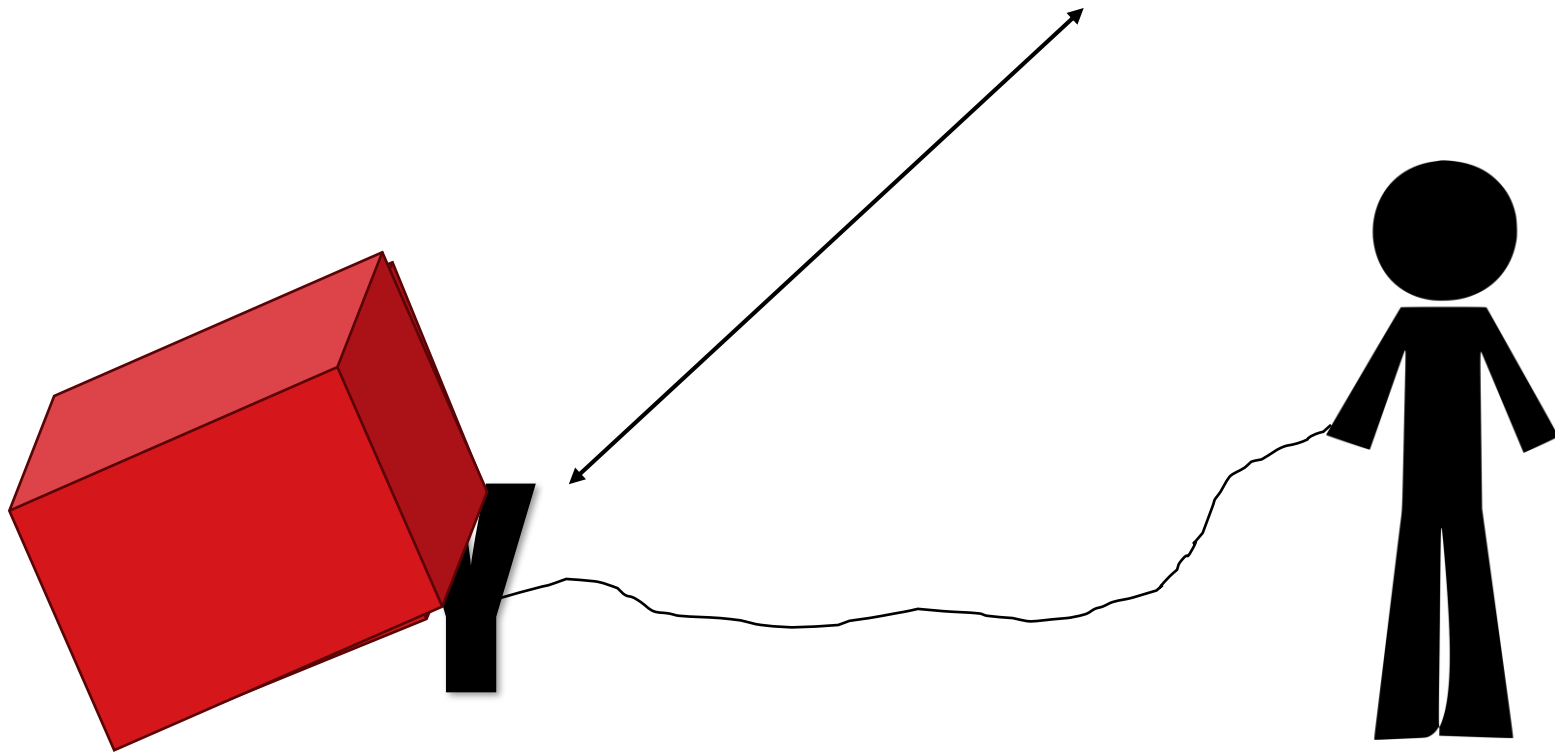
Ten arrows from the bible from which to choose when you've been offended or have offended someone else



Offense = Skandalon (Strong's 4625)

- A stick for bait of a trap; a snare, a stumbling block, an offense.
- The **trigger of a trap** closing on a victim; to **shock** or **horrify** by real or imagined violation of property or morality.

Skandalon = the trigger of a trap



Examples of the word “skandalon”

Matthew 16:23

He (Jesus) turned and said to Peter, Get thee behind me, Satan: you are an **offence** unto me: for you savor not the things that be of God, but those that be of men.

Romans 14:13

No man put a stumbling block or **occasion** to fall in his brother's way.

Romans 16:17

Mark them which cause divisions and **offenses** contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned.

Reproducible Discipleship – share these

- 1) Proverbs 19:11 – glory to overlook an offense (i.e., new believers, etc.)
- 2) Luke 17:1-5 – take heed to yourself, God forgives and so should we
- 3) Luke 17:5-6 – greatest miracle is restoration of relationships
- 4) Psalm 119:165 – how thin is your skin? (love God’s law, nothing offends)
- 5) Proverbs 25:23 – how an angry look is supposed to work
- 6) 2 Cor. 12:7-10 – sometimes offenders hang around
- 7) Galatians 2:20 – (Are you) crucified with Christ?
- 8) Matthew 7:1-5 – judging motes (what things really matter?)
- 9) Matthew 5:23-26 – go quickly
- 10) Matthew 18:15-20 – can’t jump to this without heeding verses 1 to 14

Bad arrows when offended

Get mad or angry slowly wounding yourself more

Be vindictive – lock and load – draw your sword

Withdrawn, disappear, feel defeated, you quit

Change plans from God's plan

Confused, hurt, surprised, wounded

Change churches taking your wound with you

When you need to swat a fly...



Sometimes a small arrow works...



Sometimes you need a bigger arrow



Why not just let offenses go by?

Hebrew 12:14-15

Strive for peace with everyone, and for the holiness without which no one will see the Lord. See to it that no one fails to obtain the grace of God; that no “root of bitterness” springs up and **causes trouble**, and by it **many become defiled...**”

1 Samuel 25:1-44 (David, Nabal, Abigail Rose)

- 1) Samuel has died – all Israel in mourning. Watch for times when you're more apt to be susceptible to offenses
- 2) Be aware of how your reactions affect others
- 3) What Nabal did to reward David's diligence and protection
- 4) David's reaction (draw your swords)
- 5) Possible consequences
- 6) Abigail Rose's actions
- 7) The results

Arrow #1 – Proverbs 19:11

“A person’s wisdom yields patience: it is one’s glory to overlook an offense”

“It is to his honor to forgive and forget a wrong done to him” (NLV)

How it works:

Forgive unilaterally – not dependent upon the offender ever repenting or asking forgiveness.

A choice you make – offenders can't demand that you choose this arrow.

Don't fake it – don't act like you've done it if the offense won't pass.

Extreme Examples

Luke 23:34 – Christ on the cross:

“Father forgive them for they do not know what they are doing.”

Acts 7:60 – Stephen being stoned:

“Lord do not hold this sin against them.”

Arrow #2 – Psalm 119:165

“Great peace have they which love thy law: and nothing shall offend them (cause them to stumble)”

Question: what is the key to this verse working?

Arrow #3 – Proverbs 25:23

“The north wind drives away rain: so does
and angry countenance a backbiting
tongue.”

Clarifications

Angry (Strong's 2194) = to foam at the mouth, to be enraged; abhor, indignation

Backbiting = seeking to damage someone's reputation behind his back; includes slanderous reports and idle tales about others

How it works

- 1) Use an angry look to silence gossip
- 2) Get indignant – have your brother's back
- 3) Defend people when they're not there
- 4) Backbiting not allowed even if “facts” are true
- 5) Don't be a part of parading facts
- 6) Don't listen with an air of pleasure (look up scriptures using the word woe to this activity)

Arrow #4 – Luke 17:1-5

“Temptations to sin are sure to come, but woe to the one through whom they come! It would be better for him if a millstone were hung around his neck, and he were cast into the sea than that he should cause one of these little ones to sin. Pay attention to yourselves! If your brother sins, rebuke him, and if he repents, forgive him, and if he sins against you seven times in the day, and turns to you seven times, saying, I repent, you must forgive him. The apostles said, Increase our faith.”

How it's supposed to work...

- A. Take heed to yourself – in many ways we live in glass houses (Ted, Big Daddy, Reijo)
- B. Rebuke him (warning to prevent something from going wrong, warn by instructing – sword/velvet)
- C. Don't pretend it didn't happen (ramifications?)
- D. Forgive – we're not justified in maintaining a spirit of unforgiveness
- E. God forgives – so should we (7x times?)

Arrow # 5 – Joshua 22

- 1) Learn the difference between an offense and a misunderstanding
- 2) Take time to learn the facts and the intent of a person's heart if offended
- 3) Don't listen to gossip – cut it off, don't let it grow and offend others

Sandcastles

