Episode 64

"Then the scribes and the chief priests looked for a way to get their hands on him that very hour, because they knew he had told this parable against them."
– Luke 20:19

Offense is one of the main wedges that keeps us from the purposes and presence of God.

Back in 1649, during the English Civil War, Oliver Cromwell led the army against the then ruling power, King Charles I and his Royalist Party. Once Cromwell had claimed victory, he rallied his officials and had them sign a death warrant against King Charles, Cromwell's greatest threat.

19 years later, with a further shift in power, the Royalist Party once again took charge and subsequently arranged the return to London of the late king's son, Prince Charles, and ordained him as King Charles II. One of the first commands given by the new king was to gather all those who had signed his father's death warrant nearly 20 years earlier, put them on trial and had them hanged. However, since some of these officials had already died, Cromwell being one of them, he had their bodies exhumed, put on trial, hung in chains and beheaded.

Talk about digging up your past.

At this time in our country, we're in danger of taking offence at what we see unfolding around us. Just check your pulse while you scroll through your news feed or take stock of those dark, violent thoughts that grab hold of you when you seen the unrest in person.

1 Corinthians 13 says love keeps no record of wrongs, but we have filing cabinets with meticulous records, we know how to go back and find the day they wronged us, what they said, exactly how much it cost us, and we replay this over and over and over. We resent what we see, stoke the fire of offence and dig up the past instead of walking in the freedom of forgiveness.

We've got to live free and forgiving, otherwise we are no better than the perpetrators, and are in danger of the same wickedness that overtook the scribes and Chief Priests in Jesus' day. We've got to take our filing cabinet and destroy the evidence. Because if the devil can get you offended, he can get you off course.

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