



Title: let the mighty arise IV – overcoming the rough ways of offense
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The process for overcoming the challenges of life

Luke 3:2 (NKJV) ² while Annas and Caiaphas were high priests, **the word of God came to John ...** [and the mighty arose]

Luke 3:4-6 (NKJV) ⁴ as it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet, saying: ... ⁵ **Every valley shall be filled and every mountain and hill brought low; the crooked places shall be made straight and the rough ways smooth;** ⁶ and all flesh shall see the salvation of God. ¹ ”

- **Valley of Failure** – failure speaks loudly, but the word of God speaks louder. [let the word speak to you]
- **Mountains of the opinions of man** – the opinions of man will try to define us, but the word of God in our mouths will have the final say. [let the word speak through you]
- **Crooked places of sin** – the crookedness of our hearts are bent straight by the indwelling word of God. [let the word change you]
- **Rough ways of offense** – if you disobey you will stumble, yet if you obey you will stand [let the word cause you to overcome as you obey it]

The rough ways? speedbumps on the road of life

Luke 17:1 (HCSB) ¹ He said to His disciples, “Offenses will certainly come, but woe to the one they come through!”

Speed bumps of life = offenses will come = stumbling blocks = snares. There will be speed bumps on the road of life.

The effect of the offense: *temptation seduces us onto the crooked paths; the offense is a snare (a trap) to deceive us onto the crooked paths.*

The target of the offense – targets the **heart & severs relationships**.

The gap is the offense – our expectations of people vs their performance. The higher the expectation the greater the offense.

“Me offended?”

- **Suspension** – character. not geared for offenses = Low suspension, very self-focused foundation.
- **Baggage** – weights carrying with me; I’m carrying some stuff with me. Usually an identity issue.

Perception change: offenses will come. It is simply training for reigning.

Dealing with an offense? Training for reigning

Truth: You will stumble if you disobey; you will stand if you obey.

Don’t let it move you! 1) **Yet if you stay** where God has placed you, and 2) **fight for** the health of your heart and for relationships. Then you will stand. It is **a process of healing**, yet you need to be positioned correctly.

¹ Peter 2:7-8 (NKJV) ⁷ Therefore, to you who believe, *He is precious*; but to **those who are disobedient**, “*The stone which the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone,*” ⁸ and “*A **stone of stumbling** and a **rock of offense.***” They stumble, being disobedient to the word, to which they also were appointed.

FORGIVE, even if they do not repent: Luke 17:3-4 (HCSB) ³ *Be on your guard. If your brother sins, rebuke him, and if he repents, forgive him.* ⁴ *And if he sins against you seven times in a day, and comes back to you seven times, saying, ‘I repent,’ you must forgive him.”*

Will you stand?

Matthew 7:24-27 (NKJV) ²⁴ "Therefore whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock: ²⁵ and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it did not fall, for it was founded on the rock. ²⁶ "But everyone who hears these sayings of Mine, and does not do them, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand: ²⁷ and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it fell. And great was its fall."

- **Character - Application leads to transformation.** Are you applying the word?

Ecclesiastes 10:4 (HCSB) ⁴ If the ruler's anger rises against you, don't leave your place, for calmness puts great offenses to rest.

- **Baggage - Everything that can be shaken, will be shaken:** offenses or the speed bumps of life are designed to make us aware of the baggage we carry with us.

Serious offenses – Joseph (Genesis 37 onwards)

90% of offenses are our own over sensitivity. 10% are real offenses. Where we are treated in a very bad way.

Joseph went through the:

- Valley of failure
- Mountains of the opinions of man
- Crooked places of sin
- Rough ways of offense
 - **Spiritual suicide?** – Just blame God and push Him away.
 - **God turned it all around: How?** Because Joseph held onto the word, and didn't get offended. **Genesis 45:7-8 (NKJV)** ⁷ And God sent me before you to preserve a posterity for you in the earth, and to save your lives by a great deliverance. ⁸ So now it was not you who sent me here, but God; and He has made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house, and a ruler throughout all the land of Egypt.

If we disobey we will stumble, yet if we obey we will stand.