

CNL Season 2009

1.2 It's Not About Me Part 2

Transcription

Thought she was drunk and he says to her, he walks right up to her right? She's probably in the court yard, she's praying. He says, how long are you going to keep getting drunk? Get rid of your wine woman! Now, if somebody walked up to you and said, "Hey, wow, you really look fat in that dress." You would have two choices, you are offended, b – you're not. "A" or "B"? A –(laughs) right? So, if he said that to me, there are more problems than just my weight right? Because I don't wear a dress. Ok, so, (laughs) when you see this verse, put yourself in it for just a moment and think. You have got to be kidding, I'm sitting here, I'm praying to the Lord. Some arrogant guy condescends over to me and says, You are drunk! When are you going to stop drinking, they haven't even asked, they have jumped to a conclusion, right? Sometimes the only exercise we get in life is when we jump to conclusions. This man jumped to this conclusion, right? Anybody would be offended. I want you to watch how she responds. "Not so my Lord." She immediately respects him. Now understand, he just insulted her, right? She responds with respect. "Not so my Lord, I am a woman who is deeply troubled, I haven't been drinking wine or beer, I was pouring out my soul, do you realize that there was beer back then right? Ok? I was pouring out my soul to the Lord. Don't take your servant for a wicked woman, I have been praying here out of my great anguish and grief. And he goes, "Go in peace, may the Lord God of Israel grant you what you've asked of Him." And she said, may your servant find favor in your eyes. Then she went away. Now I want to tell you. She's there, she's had a hard enough year as it is, she's had a hard enough five years, maybe 10 years right? She's still praying, she's overwhelmed, I would say she's probably at a point that if you push the average person too hard at that point, you're going to blow up on you right? How many times have you all ever had an explosion because you just had a rotten day, everything has been going wrong, everyone has been misinterpreting what you are saying, and you are just sick and

tired of it and suddenly someone says something to you and they just say it wrong and that triggers you? Anybody here? And you say in response, “hey, man I’m sorry, I just had a horrible day.” I mean it’s almost our justification right? This woman has been insulted. Hey, this woman has been insulted for years. Stay with me, this woman has been insulted for years. The last thing she needs is another insult. How many of you being insulted for years, now you are being called a drunk on top of it, out of the blue, by someone in authority. How many of you would be a little offended? Come on guys, be honest. How many of you? I’m going to tell you this is going to be the first point and it’s because there is a prophecy that deals with this very issue. In the latter days. But if you will, fill in blank number 1 with capital letters “ME”. Me-centered people can be cruel and judgmental by nature and then fill in the second blank “Christ-centered” are merciful and gracious to the fallen. And I’ll tell you what this means. If you are full of yourself, you’ll take offense easily. Now think about this. If you are full of yourself, if you are self-centered. That means you are really centered only on how do I look, how I am appearing, you know, what’s best for me, you will take offense easily. Because you will not accept anyone saying anything that does not praise you. Are you all with me? Think about it. Husbands and wives, do you ever get in fights because your husband said something that you felt wasn’t fair or complimentary? Husbands, does your wife ever freak out because you, because obviously the same thing. I mean do you all every find offense because somebody has phrased something in such a way that you take it task and you will spend three hours debating the structure of the way they said it to you as an insult and you are irritated about it? Anybody here? Fatai, praise the Lord for you man, you always raise your hand. You’re my encouragement up here, man. (laughs) No, but then theoretically the more, and I want you all to hear this literally, the more you have the Holy Spirit in you, the more you are filled with the Holy Ghost, the more it pushes out the self. The more spirit the less self. The more spirit the less self. The more spirit the less self. The more spirit.... so as you continue being filled, there’s no room left in there for self. Every nook and cranny. Did you all see this plane that went down in the Hudson? Amazing,

amazing. Well I remember and I was wondering if they were going to retrieve the airplane by doing something that I've seen them do to ships. You know how they retrieve ships, many times that go down. They have this huge bladder, it's called a bladder. And they go down and put this, basically enormous balloon, they just kind of, it's empty and they put it inside the hull of the ship. And they begin to pump it full of air. As it pumps with air, what does it do? It displaces the water, as it displaces the water the water is replaced by air which is lighter than water. And as it completely fills the hull of the ship, what happens? The ship floats. Now I want you to think of it this way. The more we have the Holy Ghost dwelling in us, filling us, the less space there is for our ego and our reaction to everything past that point should inevitably be not offense because that means our pride is taking it. But it should be patience and mercy, why? Because it is the Holy Spirit now that taken the place of self. Now this is extremely important because the Bible prophecies that in the latter days, the majority of people, the word many there means the dominance, the majority of people will take offense easily. I have to tell you the truth, you cannot say a single sentence now that you have reanalyze it to make sure that you are politically correct in everything you say or you are going to offend somebody. Do you know what I am saying? You know, if I said, "Hey Joe, hey Joe" and he goes, "What do you mean "hey"? Did you know the word "hey" when you say it to someone under the age of 21 means like...? Now of course he wouldn't say that, but what I'm trying to say.. What if you get to such place in society that no matter what you say creates an offense with someone? You know what you see? You see latter day's prophecy. And then we all become like, well you know I have my rights too. That will be the next step, everybody has their rights. And so we all get preoccupied with our rights, then we start picking stuff to find offense with, do you know why? Because that gets us position and power over the person who said it. Recently, and I'm not making a stand on this issue, recently Prince Phillip or Edward, one of the young princes, Harry. Was it Harry? Whatever and he said something which, he was saying in a humorous way to a person he had already talked to that way and they had already joked that it was an

acceptable word that could be used. He uses this word in a video tape, he is just videotaping his buddy at the airport or whatever and it gets into the news and it comes to the point that the father was Pakistani then says that now you must not only apologize to me and my son, you must go to Pakistan and apologize to the Pakistani government. Let me just tell you, at that moment no matter if he was right or wrong what's really going on is an issue of power and control. In other words, Satan doesn't want to break you down because he thinks, I'm really bored; Kathy needs to be broken down. It's because Kathy is a believer, if he can control you, influence and intimidate you, offend you, you know what he will do? He'll bring it to the point where you are almost afraid to open your mouth for Christ, for fear of offending. There are law suits going on this country right now where people who witnessed and when they shared Christ and said to a person, "you know if you don't accept Christ, you could go to hell". The person sued them for trauma. For emotionally traumatizing them for daring to say that they would go to hell. (laughs) The person took offense with it. And the Bible says in the latter days everybody will find offense. So how are we going to start picking and spotting the believers? I had a conversation recently with a pastor at a church that has a precious spirit and he is a brother in Christ who in the social realm you look at him. You look at him and you know that he is a minority. Yet he made it so clear to me that whenever we would work in ministry together he made it so clear to me, he said, "Peter, do not ever talk to me intimidated by what the world has told you to be intimidated by me, where you have to be politically correct. If you have a thought in your mind, talk to me. Because I'm not a minority, and you're not a majority, but we are Christ's children. I'm your brother and you are mine. And I have to tell you the truth just that moment in time was so profound with him, it was so profound because he suddenly said you know what the world is going try to keep us divided Peter and I refuse to be divided with you. Does that make sense? He said I refuse to be divided with you because that's the world's method of castrating the church, that is the world's way of crushing the church. Divide and conquer, divide and conquer. He says if we listen to what the Bible teaches though that Jew,

Gentile, Greek, no matter what we are one in Christ Jesus, Peter, all that matters is I have the same father as you do which is God the Father. And I tell you at that point, we have a prosperous friendship. You know why? Because the rules were set. We will not be affected by minor things. We will focus on Christ. And if there is ever something that we say to each other that maybe we think is a problem. We'll just verbalize it to the other guy, we'll forgive one another and move on. Now can you imagine if that's how the world was? The world of Christianity today, come on guys. What if the world of Christianity was, that I, I could almost not be offended by you, what if I almost, in fact what if I was to say to everyone of you today, which by the way we're not going to do. What if I were to say, come up with an offense, offending and insulting me as much as you can right now, and I were to sit here and say, "praise the Lord" every time you offended me. Insulted me. That I refused to take offense. That would be an interesting exercise, wouldn't it? Wouldn't it? (Maria's comments) Once I read that an offense is like a poison morsel and Satan will dangle it in front of you and the minute that you swallow it you will be contaminated and that contamination could spread. I thought that is such a perfect illustration about offenses. So when Satan is dangling that offense in front of you and you are aware of it, say to yourself, I will not take that morsel and you will be ok.

Yeh, in fact this brother actually he told about how a woman in a church told this other woman, "Didn't you wear that outfit last week?" That was it and he said that they have actually chased down and figured that is the statement that started the division in their women's ministry. Like two months before, it all came down to the battle between these two women. And it came down to that this woman was so offended that the other woman had basically said to her, you know, what kind of woman wears her clothes twice in a row. That that offense, she had started a gossip campaign against this other woman that had caused all the women to pick sides in this Bible study and the Bible study split and the church almost completely split. They had to have a huge church meeting and you all may have of heard of this so, we're not going to say the name of this ministry because it has some wonderful people in it.

But you know what it came down to? One woman saying to the other woman, didn't you wear that dress last week? Which you see, the Bible says in the latter days people will take easy offense. What did Hannah do when she had the opportunity to be offended? She was not only gracious; she was still honorable to the person. That's amazing to me. And she then, what's important, then she turns around and says, may the Lord bless you and your household. Now can you imagine how that would water down fires between believers if we actually practiced that today? I mean just think about it. But it takes being so filled, but don't forget she had come to the point where the Holy Ghost had so filled her, the Holy Spirit had so filled her vessel up and pushed out self and she was broken and she says I'll even give this baby up Lord, I'll give him to you. Which by the way she did. Probably about when he was 3 years old, she gave her son to the Lord and he was raised in the temple. And every year she would cut and sew little outfits for him and as he grew and you know it's beautiful and he would look like the high priest so he grew up there and of course became a great prophet and priest. But she was so full, just imagine that balloon, you cannot have all that air in the vessel and still have all that water in the vessel both. One has to give way to the other, are you all with me? Somewhere one has to give way to the other and that is what God is calling you and me this morning. I'll tell you why. Because that being a prophecy of the latter days that people will be offended easily. When you start getting offended by almost everything that happens. Everybody makes you mad, that might not be a problem with everybody else, it might be a problem with me. With you. Are you all with me? And that should be a little flag because I'm looking at the world today; everybody is offended by everybody else. Yeh, we won't have time but I was going to example which I think which deals with the fellow who in England, and most of you have seen the movie perhaps. But was... Yes "Amazing Grace" I don't know if you've see that film. But he was a key person in the liberation of slaves and the trade of slaves. And as a believer he offended a lot of believers because his position was based on scripture. And so they were very offended that he was changing the politics of the country because his spiritual beliefs conflicted

with it. But what happened was true believers stepped back long enough to say, wait a minute. The spirit realm is superior to the political realm. Our true government is Christ Jesus. What we do and follow is supposed to be Christ, not just government. When government doesn't fit in, our urgency should be to try to influence government to obviously do what scripture says. But we can tell you that some other, it's a powerful story but it really shows how the heart and the spirit of God within should guide us even more than political forces we may normally agree with. Would you look at Ezekiel 36 on your notes,, it says "I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you and I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart, a tender heart of flesh." And then if you would read out loud with me Matthew 24, can you all see that verse, Matthew 24? Let's read that out loud. "Then shall many be offended and shall betray one another and shall hate one another, and because iniquity shall abound the love of many shall wax cold." Maria and I have studied church history, we're fascinated by the number of churches that have split over issues of offense, and I mean not really the word of God. It's just a matter of power. Now I'm going to give you all a challenge. If you were offended by your wife, ok, it could be wives to men, if you were really offended by your wife if you really step back a little farther. You let the Holy Spirit give you an answer right now, if you were to step back, is it because it just bugs you what she said? Now I want you to be honest you don't have to say this out loud and this could even be a friend. But when you step back is it because her insult of you pushes you down, cuts you down a little and positions her over you at that moment. And you are really battling back for superior position, by being offended and letting her know it? That's really what it is, isn't it? What is offense ultimately? I want you to think about this spiritually. What is an offense? When you let someone offend you, what are you really doing? That's right, you've allowed them to come in and degrade you and you want to reposition yourself over them. Right? I mean it's about power, isn't it? When Satan fell from heaven because of jealousy, why did he fall? Was he doing drugs? No, why did he fall? It was about power. His ego was so enormous and he was offended that God was not letting him

be in charge and that's why he fell. And so, I want you all to ponder today whenever we're offended this week because we have to come to grips with this before we even go into the final part of prophecy. When we are easily offended, what's really going on is, our ego trip is out of control. How does Hannah actually, ... do you know what jujitsu is? What is jujitsu? It's when you take the force of the moment and instead of trying to hit it back and repel it, what do you do? You take that force and you roll with it and then you beat your adversary. So I want you to think of Hannah, think of it as spiritual jujitsu. He comes up, he insults her, and he says you're drunk, when are you going to stop drinking wine? She turns around, punches him in the stomach, kicks him in the face...no, what did she do? She immediately says, "My lord" she doesn't mean Yahweh or Kurios in Greek, this is sir you're a teacher like a rabbi, please hear my heart, that's not what's going on here. And he actually reaches out to her, she reaches out to him in such a way, she says you know what I can see why you said that. Now come on this is a moment in time, this is not a marital lesson, this not just a relational lesson, but I'm going to tell you, use it relationally with God and with each other. She turns and says you know what I can see what you thought that. But let me encourage you that is not what has happened. And then on top of it, she heaps coals of fire on his head. Have you ever heard about coals of fire in the Bible? What does the verse basically say about coals of fire? That's right, if someone is rude to you and what you do is respond back kindly, they don't know how to handle it. They literally don't know how handle it. It blows their mind. Which is why the Christian faith flourished in the 1st and 2nd Centuries. The reason the Christian faith flourished is because they go to communities, the Romans are crucifying them and what do they do? They turn back around, they go out into the community, they feed the poor, they feed the hungry, they care for people and they love on them. The Centurion comes to Jesus, the centurion is donating money to the temple, I mean showing his respect. But the Centurion comes and Jesus doesn't beat him to death, doesn't beat him over the head, what does he do? He loves on him; he blesses him and does a miracle in his life. So, think of spiritual jujitsu, say that with me, "spiritual

jujitsu". Say it again, spiritual jujitsu. I want you all to think about spiritual jujitsu this week. I want you to think about that person who ticks you off the most right now ok? Hummmmm, ok we got it now right hmmmm, right. There they are, right? Ok, no I'm not going to do that. And now if they say something condescending to you at work or at home wherever this person is in your life, try some spiritual jujitsu, say, you know ... They go, "you know, you're an idiot, and your always late at the job, whatever." You look at him and say you know what you're right, I'm really wrestling over this because I have so much work, and I'm trying to catch up. But you're right; I'm coming in late on a lot of the projects. I could use your help. Would do you think? Seriously. Rick Warren years ago whether you agree with what's going on with Rick right now is not the issue, but Rick Warren taught a valuable lesson to a group of pastors years ago. You know, he said whenever people come up to you, you know what we need in this ministry, you know what we need in this ministry, you know what we need in this ministry? We need a children's department, you know what we need in this ministry, we need this department, you know. Now you can sit down and say "ok, ok, or if you would say, give me a break and say "shut-up, I'm busy" and he said what he learned from God when he studied scriptures was this. He would look at them and he would say, "Do you really think need that youth department?" Then they would go "yeah". And he would say, "oh good, then I guess God has called you. Go do it." It was spiritual jujitsu. What it was saying you know if you feel that urgent about it, God must be telling you something that he hasn't told me yet so let's go for it. Hannah is approached, she could stand there and say, "You arrogant man, you think you are godly? Well let me tell you something, I'm not loaded and if you had spiritual discernment you would know that. She could have done that right? She could have actually biblically sounded righteous, but she didn't. So if I can encourage you all today. You know, with that spouse, with that friend, with that co-worker or whatever. Maybe surprise them, maybe surprise them and just fill in number 4 and we'll be done. This of course comes from Jonah and I was going to do a parallel between the two stories but we didn't have time. But, you remember Jonah, he didn't want to preach to

Nineveh, swallowed by the fish, whale, gets thrown up on the shore and he builds a little tent and God grows him a beautiful vine and it covers him up but dies the next day. He throws a temper tantrum. Jonah is very upset and when God destroys that covering and God actually uses that to motivate him. God says, you know it's amazing. You're crying over a vine, but you're not crying over the souls of these people. You know why Jonah you have problems? Because you still think this is all about you. Lord, why did you put me on a boat, Lord why did you throw me in the water, Lord why did you let the fish swallow me, Lord why am I in the heat, Lord why am I preaching to these people, Lord why am I with these ungodly people? They're all going to hell; they deserve to go to hell, Lord why did you take this vine? Why would you kill the vine? Lord why? And the Lord says, Jonah, this isn't about you. This is about my glory being shown to the Ninevites, 120,000 people. If this is about me Jonah then learn to deal with it, this isn't about you, this is about me. And you will be the tool to reach these people whether you like it or not. So you can either do it with joy or miserably. So that's what is powerful about that passage. So why did he wither the vine? Because that made Jonah sit in the sun again and say I'm going to get up and go back to Nineveh where it's cool and God says, that's good. Get going. So if I can encourage you in something. The fourth point is God often withers our comfort zones and our vines to get us moving. And our comfort zone is self. Our comfort zone is self. What is our comfort zone? Self. Man it sure feels good just to adore me. Just to love me. To think about me. To take care of me. That feels good right? God says no, leave your comfort zone. Actually care about the other guy more than yourself. Actually you look at that guy at work that is always, you know bumming you out and stuff like that and say, you know what, that guy is going to hell. And don't look at him and say, "Hey! I'm going to heaven and you're going to hell! (laughs) We don't do it like that. That is not your moment of revenge. But think about it. What if he is your Nineveh? In other words, you know, sharing Christ, the other day we needed a realtor for something and this guy volunteered to do the realty for us and I didn't know he had been raised by his dad who was a pastor. And we started to talk to him and

Betty was there. And he goes, yeh, I don't know if you know this but years ago I was under your teaching and I became born again under your teaching. I was raised in a Christian home, my dad was a pastor but I looked at the church and said I don't want to have anything to do with churches. He said I met Christ under you and he says that's why I want to do this at no commission. I want to actually give you this realty deal. And I thought oh there was a seed that was planted. You know if I had met him and talked to him and he had talked about I hate churches and I hate Christian and everything else, years before, he might have been my Nineveh. But he wasn't. But it's one of those things with you all, that person, please hear my heart because this is, I'm not the only witness here, you all know that, everyone of you are called as witnesses. I know a lot of you are very active witnesses. This week it may be that God is calling you not just to witness to your friends. He's calling you to witness to your Nineveh. He's calling you to be gracious to Eli, the high priest on the day that Eli wasn't thinking. He may be calling you to minister to the most impossible, incorrigible, stubborn, obnoxious, irritating person you know. In fact hear my heart; God is actually calling us to share Christ with the most offensive people that are out there. And the other day, I talked withAnd that's because he had called me to where I didn't want to go. And once he breaks the offense personality in us that is easily offended. And says, "Peter it is not about you." It's like Maria, she couldn't, I couldn't hardly understand the story when she called the other day, she was crying so hard. She says, "Peter, we kept saying, what am I doing here, what am I doing here, Peter? It wasn't about me being here, it wasn't about me, it was about this couple that needed a translator. It wasn't about me. This whole thing makes sense to us. So you know what, think about who is your Nineveh in life? God may be calling you to your Nineveh. It's easy to be called to your friends; it's hard to be called to your Ninevehs. I'll encourage you. Take on your Ninevehs. Amen? Amen.