

Mark 14:27 (NKJV):

“Then Jesus said to them, ‘All of you will be made to stumble because of Me this night, for it is written: “I will strike the Shepherd, and the sheep will be scattered.”’”

In this passage, Jesus is quoting **Zechariah 13:7**, a prophecy about the Messiah’s suffering. The term “made to stumble” (Greek: *skandalizō*) is sometimes translated as **“offended,” “fall away,”** or **“caused to stumble.”** It refers to being shocked, disillusioned, or spiritually shaken to the point of doubt or failure.

Jesus was preparing His disciples for the traumatic events about to unfold His arrest, trial, and crucifixion. These events would deeply disturb their faith and loyalty.

1. Theological Meaning of “Stumbling” or “Being Offended”

Theologically, to be “offended” in the biblical sense is not merely to feel insulted; it’s to **encounter a spiritual crisis** a moment where circumstances challenge your trust in God. It’s a falling away that comes from fear, disappointment, or confusion.

Matthew 26:31 (NKJV):

“Then Jesus said to them, ‘All of you will be made to stumble because of Me this night, for it is written: “I will strike the Shepherd, and the sheep of the flock will be scattered.”’”

This shows that even sincere believers can be overwhelmed by events that shake their faith. Yet Jesus wasn’t condemning them—He was revealing their weakness so they would understand their need for His grace.

2. How the Disciples Were Offended

This prophecy was fulfilled within hours. When Roman soldiers came to arrest Jesus, the disciples fled in fear. Peter, emotionally overwhelmed, reacted violently:

John 18:10 (NKJV):

“Then Simon Peter, having a sword, drew it and struck the high priest’s servant, and cut off his right ear. The servant’s name was Malchus.”

Peter’s reaction was rooted in confusion and frustration. He couldn’t understand why the Messiah would allow Himself to be captured. This teaches us that **even zealous believers can be offended when God’s plan doesn’t align with their expectations.**

3. Being Offended for Christ’s Sake Today

The reality is: anyone who follows Jesus will experience moments of offense times when your faith is tested, your heart is troubled, or your beliefs are mocked.

John 15:20 (NKJV):

“Remember the word that I said to you, ‘A servant is not greater than his master.’ If they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you.”

Here are modern examples of how believers can be “offended” because of Christ:

- Hearing **blasphemy** or disrespect toward Jesus can deeply grieve your spirit.

- Seeing **false teachings** that distort the gospel can cause righteous anger.
- Experiencing **rejection or mockery** for standing on biblical truth may tempt you to give up.
- Being spiritually **attacked or discouraged** just for choosing to live righteously can lead to inward struggle.

Yet, Jesus taught us not to respond with violence or hatred.

Ephesians 6:12 (NKJV):

“For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age...”

Our mission isn't to fight people but to love them and speak truth in

grace. We’re called to **save souls**, not destroy them, even when provoked.

4. The Role of Trials in Our Faith

God allows these moments of offense or stumbling to **test and purify our faith**. Trials reveal what’s real in us. And when we fail, like Peter did, Jesus is still there to restore us.

Luke 22:31-32 (NKJV):

“And the Lord said, ‘Simon, Simon! Indeed, Satan has asked for you, that he may sift you as wheat. But I have prayed for you, that your faith should not fail; and when you have returned to Me, strengthen your brethren.’”

Jesus knew Peter would stumble but also that he would return stronger.

Final Encouragement

If you’ve ever been hurt, shaken, or discouraged in your walk with Christ know that it’s not a sign of failure. It’s part of the journey of faith. What matters is that you don’t stay down. Trust in God’s grace to strengthen you again.

James 1:2-4 (NKJV):

“My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience. But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing.”

Shalom. Keep walking with Christ, even when it’s hard.

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