

Betrayal

“Now he who was betraying Him gave them a sign, saying, Whomever I shall kiss, He is the one; seize Him.” And immediately Judas went to Jesus and said, “Hail, Rabbi!” and kissed Him.

And Jesus said to Judas, “Friend, do what you have come for. Then they came and laid hands on Jesus and seized Him.” Matthew 27:48-50

Have you ever been betrayed by someone you loved and trusted?

According to Webster, betray means “to lead astray, to fail or desert in time of need, to disclose in violation of confidence, to deliver to an enemy by treachery.”

Being betrayed is one of the most hurtful things life can serve up.

Jesus was betrayed by Judas. For three years, Judas lived and traveled with Jesus. As one of the twelve handpicked original disciples, Judas was loved and mentored by the Lord. In a single, destiny changing moment, Judas planted a kiss of betrayal on the cheek of God’s Son. A kiss is supposed to be a sign of love and affection, not betrayal and defection. Judas betrayed Jesus with a kiss.....a kiss bought with money. Judas’ betrayal kiss was a kiss of death for Jesus.

Betrayal is like death to our soul. Betrayal sucks the life out of our spirit. No beating around the bush with betrayal. Being betrayed is worse than awful.

I have been betrayed a number of times in my personal and ministry life. Each time was gut wrenching. Mind blowing. Betrayal pierced and broke my heart. Why? Because betrayal wounds to our core. Being betrayed leaves us feeling violated. Attacked. Assaulted. Victimized. Wrongly accused. Dumbfounded and disillusioned.

Betrayal leaves us wondering why in the world would my friend, a person I trusted betray me? What could I have possibly done to deserve being betrayed?

Note that Judas betrayed Jesus who was innocent and sinless. All Jesus could have been guilty of was loving Judas.

Even though Jesus knew Judas would betray Him, He called him friend. Amazing, isn't it? Judas chose to become an enemy of the Lord. Jesus chose to call His enemy friend.

Do you think Jesus thought about Judas and his betrayal on the way to the Cross? Humanly speaking, it had to be on His mind. I do know this. Jesus didn't let Judas's betrayal prevent Him from going to the Cross. I believe Jesus nailed Judas's betrayal to the Cross and covered it with His blood. Just before He died, Jesus cried out from the Cross "Father forgive them for they do not know what they are doing. " I believe the Father's forgiveness was meant for Judas too.

Betrayal, though deeply painful for Jesus, did not keep Him from fulfilling His destiny as man's redeemer.

Betrayers come in many shapes and sizes. A spouse, family member, work associate, boss, a spiritual leader, a friend can betray us. Betrayers try to take something away from us. Betrayers are deceived into thinking that they are somehow doing something good in betraying others. Did Judas really think it was a good thing to hand Jesus over to those committed to kill him?

If you have been burned by a betrayer, it is important for you to take the following positive steps to minimize the betrayal's affect on your life.

- Release the betrayal. Give it up to the Lord. Let it go once and for all.
- Forgive the betrayer. Release the betrayer through forgiveness. Forgiveness will keep your heart from becoming bitter. You don't have to be a betrayer's friend. But you do have to forgive them to be like Jesus.
- Refuse to become bitter. Choose to become better. Don't allow betrayal to create a trail of bitterness in your life. Don't be buried in a grave of bitterness.
- Refuse to allow betrayal to cast a haunting shadow over the rest of your life. Someone hurt you once. Don't let them hurt you again by dwelling on the betrayal.
- Bury betrayal in the blood of Jesus Christ.

Rest assured that betrayers will have to answer for their betrayal.

Be careful that you do not betray someone. Be on guard. Do not fall into the trap of betrayal of people who love and trust you.

Look past betrayal to the One who will never betray you. His name is Jesus.

*“For the Scripture says “Whoever believes in Him (Jesus) will never be disappointed.”
Romans 10:11*

*“...For He Himself has said, “I will never desert you, nor will I ever forsake you.”
Hebrews
13:5b*

“You have heard that is has been said, “You shall love your neighbor, and hate your enemy. But I say to you, love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use and persecute, so that you may be the children of your Father which is in heaven.....” Matthew 5:43-451 (KJV)

A Word For Your Week: Don't allow betrayal to derail you from pursuing and fulfilling God's will and plan for your life.