

“I will be betrayed.”

John 13:18-30

How to Deal with Betrayal

A. Maintain your purpose in the face of betrayal.

John 13:18-19, “I am not saying these things to all of you; I know the ones I have chosen. But this fulfills the Scripture that says, ‘The one who eats my food has turned against me.’

¹⁹ I tell you this beforehand, so that when it happens you will believe that I AM the Messiah.

- John 13:11, For Jesus knew who would betray him. That is what he meant when he said, “Not all of you are clean.”
- Psalm 41:9, Even my best friend, the one I trusted completely, the one who shared my food, has turned against me.

B. Look for the best in those who remain.

John 18:20, I tell you the truth, anyone who welcomes my messenger is welcoming me, and anyone who welcomes me is welcoming the Father who sent me.”

- Who is the “messenger” in this verse? It’s the disciples that remain, who will carry forth His message after the resurrection.
- Jesus was saying, “yeah, we have a traitor in our midst, but the rest of you can and will continue on.”

C. Honestly assess your own potential for betrayal.

John 18:21-25, Now Jesus was deeply troubled, and he exclaimed, “I tell you the truth, one of you will betray me!”

²² The disciples looked at each other, wondering whom he could mean.

²³ The disciple Jesus loved was sitting next to Jesus at the table.

²⁴ Simon Peter motioned to him to ask, “Who’s he talking about?”

²⁵ So that disciple leaned over to Jesus and asked, “Lord, who is it?”

Who would DO such a thing? Among them ... they’d all seen the miracles and heard His teaching!

Mark 14:10-11,

¹⁰ Then Judas Iscariot, one of the twelve disciples, went to the leading priests to arrange to betray Jesus to them. ¹¹ They were delighted when they heard why he had come, and they promised to give him money. So he began looking for an opportunity to betray Jesus.

- Why did Judas betray the Lord?
 - For money?
 - To force Jesus' political hand?
 - Unwitting player in a Spiritual drama?
 - Jealousy over other disciples?
 - Personal "demons"?
 - Terrible mistake ... Matthew 27:3-4, When Judas, who had betrayed him, realized that Jesus had been condemned to die, he was filled with remorse. So he took the thirty pieces of silver back to the leading priests and the elders. "I have sinned," he declared, "for I have betrayed an innocent man." "What do we care?" they retorted. "That's your problem."

Luke 14:17-19, In the evening Jesus arrived with the twelve disciples. ¹⁸ As they were at the table eating, Jesus said, "I tell you the truth, one of you eating with me here will betray me." ¹⁹ Greatly distressed, each one asked in turn, "Am I the one?"

- Each of them were honest enough to say, "... Is it me?" They realized that a spark of betrayal laid within each of them. What would THEY do for money, politics, jealousy, anger or rage?
- If we were honest today we might admit that the potential for betrayal lies within any of us. We might break our promises to the Lord, or disobey Him in small ways. We could become apathetic or uncaring for others. We probably wouldn't outright reject Christ Judas-style; but betrayal can take many forms.

D. Understand the deeper story.

²⁶ Jesus responded, "It is the one to whom I give the bread I dip in the bowl." And when he had dipped it, he gave it to Judas, son of Simon Iscariot.

²⁷ When Judas had eaten the bread, Satan entered into him. Then Jesus told him, "Hurry and do what you're going to do."

²⁸ None of the others at the table knew what Jesus meant.

²⁹ Since Judas was their treasurer, some thought Jesus was telling him to go and pay

for the food or to give some money to the poor.

³⁰ So Judas left at once, going out into the night.

- Jesus reached out in friendship one last time.
- Then, Jesus let him go.
- The others misunderstood the situation.
- Judas went into the “night.” Remember the general theme of the book is that Jesus is Light and Life, and He came to bring light into a dark world. Judas rejected the light and turned, literally and symbolically, to his own darkness.

Betrayal always hurts, no matter which end of the betrayal we are on. The redeeming truth here is that Jesus continued to follow God in the face of Judas’ betrayal, and the later desertion of His disciples. Eventually, Jesus would be alone, wearing a crown of thorns, carrying our sins to the Cross.

I pray that I can love with THAT kind of love.

A closing prayer ... “Dear God, we know that life has its ups and downs and that sometimes those closest to us disappoint. Help us remain pure in our love, no matter what. Keep us faithful in the face of life’s hurts. In Jesus’ name, amen.”