

Betrayed

Introduction:

1. Probably each of us remembers the Charles Schultz comic strip where Lucy promises to hold the football while Charlie Brown kicks it. Just as he is completely committed to the kick she pulls the ball away and he falls, “Wump!,” and hits the ground on his back.
2. The thing is it happens over and over again.
 - a. In one strip Charlie Brown says, “She sounds sincere. If a person sounds sincere they must **be** sincere.”
 - b. In another Lucy says, “This is a brand new ball, Charlie Brown.” “A brand new ball,” he says. “This is a real treat.”
 - c. In another she persuaded him to kick the football because it was Thanksgiving. Charlie Brown sees it coming. He thinks to himself, “She must think I am stupid.” Charlie asked, “What’s that got to do with it?” Lucy said, “The most important tradition of Thanksgiving is the kicking off of the football. It’s a big honor, Charlie Brown.” Charlie reasoned, “If it’s a big honor . . . and she wouldn’t try to trick me on a traditional holiday.”
3. We really want to believe that people are sincere. We want to experience what to us is a real treat. We want to receive honor. But there are those out there, like Lucy, who betray us over and over again.
4. For the next few minutes I want to talk with you about being betrayed, about some of the common responses to betrayal and about what you can do about it.

Discussion:

- I. There are many examples of betrayal in Scripture.
 - A. The term is used in the NASB in the O.T. in four places.
 1. 1 Chron. 12:17.
 - a. In this instance David’s popularity was rising. He had been proclaimed king in Jerusalem.
 - b. Some of the sons of Benjamin and Judah came to the stronghold and appealed to join with David.
 - c. David said, “If you come peacefully to me to help me, my heart shall be united with you; but if to betray me to my adversaries . . .”
 - d. The Hebrew root word means to “beguile, to deal treacherously with.” It is sometimes translated in the NASB with the idea of deception.
 2. Isa. 16:3.
 - a. In this text an appeal is made, probably to Israel, to hide the outcasts of Moab when she is being destroyed. “Hide the outcasts, do not betray the fugitive.”
 - b. The Hebrew word here means to “uncover, to remove.” Ex. “Rahab hid the spies and did not betray them.”
 3. Psa. 73:15.

The term here means “to act or deal treacherously” and is sometimes translated “to act

deceitfully.”

4. Hab. 2:5 says, “Wine betrays the haughty man.” It takes him in like an addiction. Like death, he is never satisfied.

B. In the N.T. “betray” is translated in NASB from two related terms.

1. One term is from a Greek word meaning “to hand over, to deliver up.”

It is the word used of Judas Iscariot’s betrayal of Jesus.

2. A related term is used Acts 7:52 of the Jews betrayal and murder of Jesus. One time translated “traitor” (Lk. 6:16). Judas Iscariot was a traitor.

C. Adam and Eve were betrayed. Joseph’s brothers betrayed him. The Egyptians betrayed

the Israelites when they reversed the policy of caring for them and instead made them forced laborers. You can come up with additional examples.

D. Betrayal is a prominent theme in Scripture.

II. Betrayal may be a prominent theme in your life.

A. What you thought was true was not. The one you thought you could trust you cannot.

There was some truth, but you were exploited. You were used. Like Charlie Brown you wanted to believe in them. You hoped you could, but it was a lie.

B. You are hurt. You are angry. You try to move forward but the pain overwhelms you.

C. And so, you numb yourself to it. You seek pleasure to numb the pain. Alcohol. Drugs. Sex. Work. Food. Gambling. Buying things. It never really works. Like death it is never satisfied (cf. Hab. 2:5). It only numbs the pain for a moment. And then, fear, loneliness, sadness and the hurt are there again, again and again.

D. But that is not the worst. You keep going back to the person who betrayed you hoping somehow that they will be different. You try everything. You blame yourself. You strive to do better. And still they hurt you and betray you all over again. It’s a vicious cycle. Almost like you are glued to the situation. It’s like two magnets stuck together. Pull them apart and they go right back together.

1. It’s a husband who beats you, apologizes and says how sorry he is, but does the same thing over and over again. Do you know that on average, a woman will not contact the police until her abuser has assaulted her thirty-five times.

2. It’s a religious leader exposed for sexual misconduct and financial fraud whose followers continue to contribute and deny his/her sexual misconduct.

3. It’s an employer who promises promotion and increased pay, but never follows through or one who expects sexual favors in order to advance you.

4. It is a spouse who is unfaithful who promises loyalty again and again.

5. Its parents going through a divorce whose children realize that they cannot trust those whom they love to be there for them. Children who are asking, “What will happen to me?”

6. It’s a political leader who terrorizes the world promising security, prosperity and great things to those who give their lives to his cause, but only uses them to advance himself.

E. Certainly you have been betrayed on multiple occasions. You are probably less aware of how you have betrayed others.

1. But there is a tendency among men to perpetuate the pains of our betrayals

upon others. Some sage said, "Hurt people, hurt people."

2. Cassie was a young woman who had been sexually abused by her father. She had always wanted his approval, his love, and his validation. Instead he betrayed her. Took advantage of her and told her if she told anyone he would hurt her sister. Cassie got out of that house as soon as she could. Her method—she "hooked up" with one man after another until she found one who would marry her. Six months later he started physically abusing her. She left that situation by "hooking up" with another man. Her life was characterized by alcohol, drug use and sexual promiscuity. She was attempting to "numb" her pain, and in the process taking advantage of others, as she looked for the approval she had never received from her father.
3. Not only has the devil betrayed all of us. People in our lives (sinners that they are) have betrayed us. We are damaged. Some of us have open wounds. All of us have scars. All of us need healing.

III. The Lord God is faithful.

- A. Psa. 27:10: "If my father and my mother forsake me, then the Lord will take me up." Perhaps David was reflecting on Israel in Egypt and how the Lord took them out. Note Ezek. 16:1-6.
- B. Isa. 49:15: "Can a woman forget her nursing child and have no compassion on the son of her womb? Even these may forget, but I will not forget you."
- C. Psa. 71:18: "Even when I am old and gray, O God, do not forsake me."
- D. Heb. 13:5: "I will never desert you, nor will I ever forsake you."
- E. We have a problem.

F. The solution.

1. We have to make ourselves vulnerable.
2. We have to trust the Lord.

3. Yes that is hard for us.
4. Who can believe it? But He has given us His Son. If He would do that will He not also with Him freely give us all things? (Rom. 8:31-32). That's the love we are looking for. That's the faithfulness that we can trust.
5. Yes, we are damaged goods. But our God is in the restoration business. He heals the hurts and binds up the broken-hearted and gives life to the dead.

Conclusion:

1. We have been betrayed. We have been hurt and the devil has led us down a path that has led to further hurt and pain.
2. We have betrayed others and perpetuated our pains on them.
3. But the Lord offers an alternative. But we must repent! Turn from the unhealthy ways we have been responding and turn to Him. Trust is a hard thing for those who have been betrayed.
4. But this is the place we must begin and this is the message we must communicate to the world.