

“PERFIDY Ain't Pretty”

PERFIDY... **per·fi·dy** [pur-fi-dee]

Intro: QUESTIONS:

How would you describe “deceit?” What value or “virtue” would you give to one’s ability to deceive???

How about “dis-function?” What value or virtue would you give one’s ability to create dis-function in a family?

Are these things, these “lack-of-character-istics” positives or negatives???

ANSWER: It all depends on your motives & goals.....

Example: Jim Elliot & Nate Saint...

Example: Julius Caesar.. Et to Brute?

Same thing whenever sin reigns supreme....

Critical Questions:

- A). Why does betrayal exist?
- B). Why did God include it in the Bible?
- C). Why do we address this uncomfortable topic?

2 Samuel 12: (REVIEW) – Nathan confronts David... Baby dies

2 Samuel 13:

Amnon (David’s son) & Tamar (David’s daughter/different mom)

- Tamar is full-sister of Absalom...
- Amnon deceives David, gets him to send Tamar to him
- Amnon rapes Tamar... then hates her & sends her away
 - See parallel... David/Amnon & Tamar/Bathsheba
 - Note: “David was furious” (but he DID NOTHING)
 - *** Unaddressed Sin Spreads & Intensifies!
 - Absalom “**said nothing... but hated**” Amnon

Absalom kills Amnon

- "Two years later" – when the lights are off roaches rule!
- Absalom deceives David to gain access to Amnon
- Absalom flees... David is PASSIVE again... does nothing.
- 3 years Absalom is hiding in Geshur
- After 3 years David "longed to go to Absalom"...

2 Samuel 14:

Joab uses a widowed woman to get David to allow/bring Absalom back... similar to Nathan's story with the baby sheep, only this time the motives may not have been as clean...

- David let Absalom back but would not see him...
- Absalom lived for 2 years in Jerusalem w/out event...
- Absalom calls for Joab and burns his fields to get him to come... (a spoiled tantrum)
- Absalom wants to see David (acts like "repented")

2 Samuel 15: Absalom's Conspiracy/Betrayal

- A. **Absalom works deceitfully outside the city gate...**
- He tells the people he would be helpful if he had power
 - He creates a desire in the people for him to have power
 - He stepped in where people were looking for the king
 - Over time... "he stole the hearts of the men of Israel."
- B. **After 4 years of plotting... he tricks David again...**
- Absalom asks to go to Hebron... to fulfill promise to God
 - David says: (NOTE) "Go in peace" (tragic irony)
 - Absalom sends out secret messages/messengers...
 - "As soon as you hear the trumpets... say, 'Absalom is king in Hebron'"
- C. **Absalom brings others with him...**
- Some were innocent by-standers... knew nothing of it...
 - Some were direct, intentional, double-crossers...
 - Ahithophel – David's counselor
 - 50 men with chariots...
 - *"so the conspiracy gained strength, and Absalom's following kept on increasing."* – v.12
- D. **David Flees... (2 Samuel 15:13-15)**
- A messenger came and told David, "The hearts of the men of Israel are with Absalom."*

and **14** Then David said to all his officials who were with him in Jerusalem, "Come! We must flee, or none of us will escape from Absalom. We must leave immediately, or he will move quickly to overtake us and bring ruin upon us put the city to the sword."

15 The king's officials answered him, "**Your servants are ready to do whatever our lord the king chooses.**"

NOTE: parallel dynamics to the Garden in Genesis 3...
--- "Did God REALLY say...?" ---

- E. **David sends the Ark back into Jerusalem with spies**
- David trusts his present & future to the Lord... AND he simultaneously DOES HIS PART...
 - See **15:25-26** = *Then the king said to Zadok, "Take the ark of God back into the city. If I find favor in the Lord's eyes, he will bring me back and let me see it and his dwelling place again. 26 But if he says, 'I am not pleased with you,' then I am ready; let him do to me whatever seems good to him."*
 - David prays that the counsel of the traitor will be foolish
 - David's friend **Husai thwarts/reports** traitor's counsel

2 Samuel 16:

- A. **Ziba** meets, replenishes, & blesses David with food, mules,
B. **Mephibosheth** goes to Jerusalem hoping to be crowned because he is the grandson of Saul... (sad – how quickly he forgot about David's love & mercy).
 - "Self-serving "gratitude" is really just polished, manipulation." - JDP
 - "Greed blinds the eyes and numbs the heart." - JDP
- C. **Shimei** curses David... says: "You deserve all this..."
 - * Notice – David does not respond
 - * Abishai offers to cut off his head...
 - * David acknowledges his own potential responsibility and God's ultimate sovereignty...
- C. **Absalom begins to ask advice from Ahithophel...**
 - First advice: "sleep with David's concubines publicly"

2 Samuel 17:

- A. **Ahithophel recommends going after David immediately and taking him out right away... "kill only him and bring everyone back alive"** (it would eliminate your problem but still leave a full country of people to rule over).
- v.4 = ***"This plan seemed good to Absalom and to all the elders in Israel."***
--- NOTE: David has been totally "BETRAYED"
- B. **Hushai** offers countering advice to thwart Absalom...
- Note: **15:15** = *Absalom and all the men of Israel said, "The advice of Hushai the Arkite is better than that of Ahithophel." For the Lord had determined to frustrate the good advice of Ahithophel in order to bring disaster on Absalom.*
 - Hushai advised waiting to get ALL the Army together for the combined nation... Also used a healthy fear of David's war-abilities to leverage excessive caution!
*** ***NOTE: excessive caution can kill!***
- C. **Ahithophel goes home & kills himself when he hears that his advice is not taken...**

2 Samuel 18: Absalom's death!

- A. David divides his troops into 3, with 3 leaders (Joab, Abishai, & Ittai)
- B. David tells everyone (in public): "Be gentle with Absalom for my sake..."
- C. The battle that day was immense... 20K died from Israel
- D. Absalom is hanging in a tree... David's soldier will not kill...
- E. Joab hears of Absalom's demise & dismisses David's order:
18:14 = *Then Joab said, "I will not waste time here with you." So he took three spears in his hand and thrust them through the heart of Absalom while he was yet alive in the midst of the oak.*
- NOTE: Knowing the King's orders and ignoring them... = seeing God's Word and ignoring or defiantly disobeying it!**
- F. **David mourns** the death of his sinful son... **(Like Jesus!)**

2 Samuel 19:

- A. **Joab rebukes David** for mourning Absalom's death...
 - Shows Joab's incorrect heart... **loyal but not loving!**
 - Shows **self-righteous indignation** (his disobedience caused the problem!)
- B. David restored as king over the unified nation...

2 Samuel 20:

- A. Sheba's Revolt/Rebellion/Betrayal
 - Sheba gets much of Israel (northern kingdom) to revolt against David...
 - Sheba tries to create dissension by claiming David is showing favoritism...
- B. Joab shows himself a crafty killer again... slays Amasa
- C. Revolt is put down...

2 Samuel 21 – David avenges the Gibeonites by sending them 7 from King Saul's bloodline (since he attacked them unjustly)...

- NOTE: David spares Mephiboseth based on his own promise... and nothing else... Just like Jesus!

2 Samuel 22 = David's Psalm of Praise (**same as Ps. 18**)

- A. Key = see that David gives ALL the glory to God!
- B. Key = see that David trusted in the LORD alone!
- C. Key = see the word pictures & metaphors of glory!

2 Samuel 23 = "David's last words" even though he is not dead yet...

- A. Key = see David's heart, values, & priorities in vv.1-7
- B. Key = look past the names of David's "Mighty Men" and draw parallels between these men and their commitment & love for David and "Disciplined Warriors" commitment & love for Jesus, the Christ.

***** Would we go to the well of Bethlehem to satisfy the desire of our King?**

*** David's "Mighty Men" = picture of the Church...

Contrast...

"BETRAYAL" in Psalms...

vs.

BIBLICAL UNITY

John 13:34-35
Ephesians 4:1-3
*** Galatians
John 17:20-23
John 17:21

PSALMS: 3, 4, 5, 13, **26**, 28, 38, 40-42, **55**, 57-58, 61-62, 64

THE LORD'S SUPPER

Psalm = #26

Vindicate me, O Lord, for I have walked in my integrity,

And I have trusted in the Lord without wavering.

2 Examine me, O Lord, and try me;

Test my mind and my heart.

3 For Your lovingkindness is before my eyes,

And I have walked in Your truth.

4 I do not sit with deceitful men,

Nor will I go with pretenders (a.k.a. "phonies")

5 I hate the assembly of evildoers,

And I will not sit with the wicked.

6 I shall wash my hands in innocence,

And I will go about Your altar, O Lord,

7 That I may proclaim with the voice of thanksgiving

And declare all Your wonders.

8 O Lord, I love the habitation/being-in of Your house

And the place where Your glory dwells.

9 Do not take my soul away *along* with sinners,

Nor my life with men of bloodshed,

10 In whose hands is a wicked scheme,

And whose right hand is full of bribes.

11 But as for me, I shall walk in my integrity;

Redeem me, and be gracious to me.

12 My foot stands on a level place;

In the congregations **I shall bless the Lord.**

1 = "Against me"

3:1-2 = O Lord, how my adversaries have increased! Many are rising up against me. **2** Many are saying of my soul, "There is no deliverance for him in God."

4:2 = O men, how long shall my honor be turned into shame? How long will you love vain words and seek after lies?

5:9 = *For there is no truth in their mouth; their inmost self is destruction; their throat is an open grave; they flatter with their tongue.*

38:11-12 = My friends and companions avoid me because of my wounds; my neighbors stay far away. **12** *Those who seek my life set their traps, those who would harm me talk of my ruin; all day long they plot deception.*

55:9-15 = *Confuse the wicked, O Lord, confound their speech, for I see violence and strife in the city.*

10 *Day and night they prowl about on its walls; malice and abuse are within it.*

11 *Destructive forces are at work in the city; threats and lies never leave its streets.*

12 *If an enemy were insulting me, I could endure it; if a foe were raising himself against me, I could hide from him.*

13 *But it is you, a man like myself, my companion, my close friend,*

14 *with whom I once enjoyed sweet fellowship as we walked with the throng at the house of God.*

15 *Let death take my enemies by surprise; let them go down alive to the grave, for evil finds lodging among them.*

55:20ff

20 My companion stretched out his hand against his friends; he violated his covenant.

21 *His speech was smooth as butter, yet war was in his heart; his words were softer than oil, yet they were drawn swords.*

55:23 But you, O God, will cast them (those who deceive their friends & hurt them; cf. 55:20-21) down into the pit of destruction; men of blood and treachery...

57:4-6 =

4: *My soul is in the midst of lions; I lie down amid fiery beasts—the children of man, whose teeth are spears and arrows, whose (O) tongues are sharp swords.* **5** Be exalted, O God, above the heavens! Let your glory be over all the earth!

6 *They set a net for my steps;* my soul was bowed down. They dug a pit in my way, but they have fallen into it themselves.

62:3-4 = *How long will all of you attack a man to batter him, like a leaning wall, a tottering fence? 4 They only plan to thrust him down from his high position. They take pleasure in falsehood. They bless with their mouths, but inwardly they curse...*

64:1-5a = Hear my voice, O God, in my complaint; preserve my life from dread of the enemy. **2** Hide me from the secret plots of the wicked, from the throng of evildoers, **3** who whet their tongues like swords, who aim bitter words like arrows, **4** shooting from ambush at the blameless, shooting at him suddenly and without fear. **5** They hold fast to their evil purpose; they talk of laying snares secretly...

ESV Study Notes: This Psalm lays out the danger to the devoted believer with 3 requests – A). hear my voice; B). preserve my life; C). hide me; - and an extensive description of the enemies and their malevolent schemes. As usual in these psalms of lament, the “enemy” is made up of “wicked” people (v.2) who have “evil purposes” (v.5) to carry out “injustice” (v.6) against the “blameless/faithful” (v.4). The particular strategy is to use bitter words (vv.3-4), which form “snares” secretly (v.5); these terms are vague enough to range from lies that sow discord or despair to slander that destroys reputations...

2 = “God is my provision/defense”

3:3 = But You, O Lord, are **(C)** a shield about me, My glory, and the One who lifts my head.

5:7b-8 = I will bow down (**L**) toward your holy temple in the fear of you.

8 Lead me, O Lord, in your righteousness because of my enemies; make your way straight before me.

13:3-4 = Consider and answer me, O Lord my God; light up my eyes, lest I sleep the sleep of death, **4** lest my enemy say, "I have prevailed over him," lest my foes rejoice because I am shaken.

28:7-9 = The Lord is my strength and my shield; in him my heart trusts, and I am helped; my heart exults, and with my song I give thanks to him.

8 The Lord is the strength of his people; he is the saving refuge of his anointed. **9** Oh, save your people and bless your heritage! Be their shepherd and carry them forever.

38:18-22 = I confess my iniquity; I am troubled by my sin. **19** Many are those who are my vigorous enemies; those who hate me without reason are numerous. **20** Those who repay my good with evil slander me when I pursue what is good. **21** O Lord, do not forsake me; be not far from me, O my God.

22 Come quickly to help me, O Lord my Savior.

41:5-13 = My enemies say of me in malice, "When will he die and his name perish?"

6 *Whenever one comes to see me, he speaks falsely, while his heart gathers slander; then he goes out and spreads it abroad.*

7 *All my enemies whisper together against me;* they imagine the worst for me, saying,

8 "A vile disease has beset him; he will never get up from the place where he lies."

9 *Even my close friend, whom I trusted, he who shared my bread, has lifted up his heel against me.*

10 But you, O Lord, have mercy on me; raise me up, that I may repay them.

11 I know that you are pleased with me, for my enemy does not triumph over me.

12 In my integrity you uphold me and set me in your presence forever.

13 Praise be to the Lord, the God of Israel, from everlasting to everlasting. Amen and Amen.

55:16 = But I call to God, and the Lord will save me.

3 = "Get'em God!"

3:7 = Arise, O Lord! Deliver me, O my God! Strike all my enemies on the jaw; break the teeth of the wicked.

5:4-6 = For you are not a God who delights in wickedness; evil may not dwell with you.

5 The boastful shall not stand before your eyes; you hate all evildoers.

6 You destroy those who speak lies; the Lord abhors the bloodthirsty and deceitful man.

5:10 = Make them bear their guilt, O God; let them fall by their own counsels; because of the abundance of their transgressions cast them out, for they have rebelled against you.

28:3-4 = Do not drag me off with the wicked, with the workers of evil, who speak peace with their neighbors while evil is in their hearts.

4 Give to them according to their work and according to the evil of their deeds; give to them according to the work of their hands; render them their due reward. (cf. 1 Cor. 3:10-15)

58:6-8a = O God, break the teeth in their mouths; tear out the fangs of the young lions, O Lord! **7** Let them vanish like water that runs away; when he aims his arrows, let them be blunted. **8** Let them be like the snail that dissolves into slime...

58:10-11 = The righteous will rejoice when he sees the vengeance; he will bathe his feet in the blood of the wicked. **11** Mankind will say, "Surely there is a reward for the righteous; surely there is a God who judges on earth." *** NOTE: see purpose in the verse!

62:12b = ...to you, O Lord, belongs steadfast love. For you will render to a man according to his work.

4 = "God gives me grace & peace"

3:5-6 = I lie down and sleep; I wake again, because the Lord sustains me. **6** I will not fear the tens of thousands drawn up against me on every side.

4:4a = Be angry, and do not sin...

4:7-8 = You have put more joy in my heart than they have when their grain and wine abound. In peace I will both lie down and sleep; for you alone, O Lord, make me dwell in safety.

5:11-12 = But let all who take refuge in you rejoice; let them ever sing for joy, and spread your protection over them, that those who love your name may exult in you. **12** For you bless the righteous, O Lord; you cover him with favor as with a shield.

13:5-6 = But I have trusted in your steadfast love; my heart shall rejoice in your salvation.

6 I will sing to the Lord, because he has dealt bountifully with me.

28:1a = To You, O Lord, I call; My rock...

42:1-2a = As the deer pants for streams of water, so my soul pants for you, O God. **2** My soul thirsts for God, for the living God.

57:1&3 = Be merciful to me, O God, be merciful to me, for in you my soul (**E**) takes refuge; in the shadow of your wings I will take refuge, till the storms of destruction pass by... **3** He will send from heaven and save me; he will put to shame him who tramples on me. *Selah* God will send out his steadfast love and his faithfulness!

57:7 = My heart is steadfast, O God my heart is steadfast! I will sing and make a new song!

58:1-4a = Do you indeed decree what is right, you gods? Do you judge the children of man uprightly? **2** No, in your hearts you devise wrongs; your hands deal out violence on earth. **3** The wicked are estranged from the womb; they go astray from birth, speaking lies. **4** They have venom like the venom of a serpent...

61:1-5;8 = Hear my cry, O God, **(B)**listen to my prayer; **2** from the end of the earth I call to you when my heart is faint. Lead me to **(D)**the rock that is higher than I, **3** for you have been my refuge, a strong tower against the enemy. **4** Let me dwell in your tent forever! Let me take refuge under the shelter of your wings! *Selah*
5 For you, O God, have heard my vows; you have given me the heritage of those who fear your name.
6 Prolong the life of the king; may his years endure to all generations!
7 May he be enthroned forever before God; appoint steadfast love and faithfulness to watch over him!
8 So will I ever sing praises to your name, as I perform my vows day after day.

62:2 = He alone is my rock and my salvation, my fortress; I shall not be greatly shaken.

62:6-8 = He only is my rock and my salvation, my fortress; I shall not be shaken. **7** On God rests my salvation and my glory; my mighty rock, my refuge is God. **8** Trust in him at all times, O people; pour out your heart before him; God is a refuge for us.

64:10 = Let the righteous one rejoice in the Lord and take refuge in him! Let all the upright in heart exult!

PSALM 40:

I waited patiently for the Lord; he turned to me and heard my cry.
2 He lifted me out of the slimy pit, **(D)** out of the mud **(E)** and mire; **(F)** he set my feet **(G)** on a rock **(H)** and gave me a firm place to stand.

3
He put a new song **(I)** in my mouth, a hymn of praise to our God. Many will see and fear **(J)** and put their trust **(K)** in the Lord.

4
Blessed is the man **(L)** who makes the Lord his trust, **(M)** who does not look to the proud, **(N)** to those who turn aside to false gods.

[a](O)

5
Many, O Lord my God, are the wonders **(P)** you have done. The things you planned for us no one can recount **(Q)** to you; were I to speak and tell of them, they would be too many **(R)** to declare.

6

Sacrifice and offering you did not desire, **(S)** but my ears you have pierced **[b][c];(T)** burnt offerings **(U)** and sin offerings you did not require.

7

Then I said, "Here I am, I have come— it is written about me in the scroll. **[d](V)**

8

I desire to do your will, **(W)** O my God; **(X)** your law is within my heart." **(Y)**

9

I proclaim righteousness **(Z)** in the great assembly; **(AA)** I do not seal my lips, as you know, **(AB)** O Lord.

10

I do not hide your righteousness in my heart; I speak of your faithfulness **(AC)** and salvation. I do not conceal your love and your truth from the great assembly. **(AD)**

11

Do not withhold your mercy **(AE)** from me, O Lord; may your love **(AF)** and your truth **(AG)** always protect **(AH)** me.

12

For troubles **(AI)** without number surround me; my sins have overtaken me, and I cannot see. **(AJ)** They are more than the hairs of my head, **(AK)** and my heart fails **(AL)** within me.

13

Be pleased, O Lord, to save me; O Lord, come quickly to help me. **(AM)**

14

May all who seek to take my life **(AN)** be put to shame and confusion; **(AO)** may all who desire my ruin **(AP)** be turned back in disgrace.

15

May those who say to me, "Aha! Aha!" **(AQ)** be appalled at their own shame.

16

But may all who seek you **(AR)** rejoice and be glad **(AS)** in you; may those who love your salvation always say, "The Lord be exalted!" **(AT)**

17

Yet I am poor and needy; **(AU)** may the Lord think **(AV)** of me. You are my help **(AW)** and my deliverer; **(AX)** O my God, do not delay. **(AY)**

noun, plural per·fi·dies.

1. deliberate breach of faith or trust; faithlessness; treachery: *perfidy that goes unpunished.*
2. an act or instance of faithlessness or treachery.

Webster's 1828: "PERFIDY" = The act of violating faith, a promise, vow or allegiance; treachery; the violation of a trust reposed. Perfidy is not applied to violations of contracts in ordinary pecuniary transactions, but to violations of faith or trust in friendship, in agency and office, in allegiance, in connubial engagements, and in the transactions of kings.

Quotes:

Oscar Wilde: "A true friend stabs you in the FRONT."

Shakespeare, Julius Caesar: "Et tu Brute?" (Even you Brutus?)

"Et tu Brute?"

Gaius Julius Caesar, who lived from July 100 BC to March 44 BC, was one of the most accomplished of ancient leaders, playing a critical role in the transformation of the Roman Republic into the Roman Empire. In 60 BC he formed a military-political alliance with Gnaeus Pompeius Magnus and Marcus Licinius Crassus known as the First Triumvirate. He became the first general to cross the English Channel by launching an invasion of Great Britain and the first to cross the Rhine when he built a bridge over it. The death of Crassus in 53 BC led to a political showdown with Pompey who, with the backing of the Roman Senate, ordered Julius Caesar to stand trial on various charges in 50 BC. His response was to march on Rome with a legion of soldiers, crossing the Rubicon in 49 BC. Pompey managed to escape to Egypt where he was assassinated. Politically unopposed, Caesar was appointed dictator by the Senate for two one year terms, then to a ten year term in 46 BC, and finally in February 44 BC as dictator for life. His life term lasted only one month. On March 15, 44 BC, as he appeared at a session of the Senate, he was attacked by approximately 60 Senators, stabbed 23 times and according to Shakespeare (among others) uttered his immortal words, "Et tu Brute?" before dying.

John Fowles, *The Magus*: Hitler didn't betray his self." "You are right. He did not. But millions of Germans did betray their selves. That was the tragedy. Not that one man had the courage to be evil. But that millions had not the courage to be good."

NOTE: **Mark 3:13 & 19** tell us that Jesus called the 12 out from amongst the crowd of followers: "*He... summoned those whom He Himself wanted, and they came to Him... (after listing the first 11)...and Judas... who betrayed Him.*"

***** Jesus wanted to teach us about betrayal!!!**

1. This is not a story of grace... Judas is damned.
2. This is a story of shocking sin & brotherly betrayal

Jim Elliot's attackers... it was virtuous to deceive... the more the better.

A house divided against itself cannot stand... = **Mark 3:25** (and Abe Lincoln later...)

*** Tie in John 17:20-23; John 13:34-35; Eph. 3:20-4:3; Gal. 4:11, 14b-16

*** 3:27 = "But no one can enter into the strong man's house and plunder his property unless he first binds the strong man, and then he will plunder his house."

*** Absalom at the city gates... "stealing the hearts of the people" = "binding the man before plundering him and his home..."

Jesus knew betrayal as well...

- A. Fickle = "Palm Sunday" to "Crucify Him!"
- B. Rejection = Pharisees
- C. Denial = Peter
- D. Betrayal = Judas

Note Paul's examples of betrayal...

*** Demas – Read Colossians 4:14 & Philemon 24

*** Proverbs 25:19 = "Like a bad tooth and an unsteady foot is confidence in a faithless man in time of trouble."

Betrayal in the Bible

By [Scott Chafee](#) on September 24th, 2010 at 4:06 pm

Posted In: [Bible](#), [Teaching](#)

`<div class="greet_block wpgb_cornered"><div class="greet_text"><div class="greet_image"></div>Hello there! If you are new here, you might want to subscribe to the RSS feed for updates on this topic.<div style="clear:both"></div><div class="greet_block_powered_by">Powered by WP Greet Box WordPress Plugin</div><div style="clear:both"></div></div></div>`

Scripture records a number of occasions in which a person or group was betrayed. The tragedies caused by these violations of trust are a strong lesson about the importance of keeping our commitments, and building trust in relationships.

1. Delilah betrayed Samson to the Philistines. [Judges 16:16-21](#)
2. David betrayed Uriah to hide his sin. [2 Samuel 11:14-15](#)
3. Absalom betrayed Amnon, his half-brother, to avenge the rape of his sister. [2 Samuel 13:28](#)
4. Absalom betrayed David, his father, as he sought to steal the kingdom. [2 Samuel 15:10-17](#)
5. Joab betrayed Amasa, a rival military officer. [2 Samuel 20:10](#)
6. Jehu betrayed Joram and killed him. [2 Kings 9:14-27](#)
7. Officials betrayed Joash and killed him. [2 Kings 12:20, 21](#)
8. Haman betrayed God's people. [Esther 3:8-11](#)
9. Officials betrayed Daniel and attacked him for his devotion to God. [Daniel 6:4-5, 6-8](#)
10. Judas betrayed Jesus, and handed Him over to the religious leaders. [Matthew 26:46-56](#)
11. The Jews betrayed Paul, and conspired to kill him. [Acts 23:12-14](#)

Other Betrayal Passages:

1. Betrayal of Jesus: [Matthew 26:14-16,45-50](#), [Mark 14:10-11](#), [Luke 22:3-6, 47, 48](#), [John 13:21](#)
2. Betrayal of others, foretold: [Matthew 20:18](#); [24:10](#)
3. Betrayal of David, by Doeg: [1 Samuel 22:9,10](#); [21:1-10](#)
4. Betrayal of cities: [Judges 1:24-25](#)
5. Betrayal of men into the hands of their enemies: [Judges 16:18](#), [Psalm 41:9, 55:12](#), [Micah 7:6](#), [Matthew 10:21, 24:10, 26:16](#), [Luke 22:22, 22:48](#), [John 13:21](#)

As I study Paul's epistles, I see a man with a tremendous amount of love who experienced many disappointments.

When he was saved, his new faith severed him from the community of Pharisees. Once the persecutor, he now became the persecuted. But he remained a man with a mission--a man of passion.

The leaders of the Jewish community hated him. Why? Because of the faith he had in God's plan of salvation through Jesus Christ. This offended those leaders who sought righteousness and prestige through obedience to the Law and Jewish traditions.

Even those who professed to be of the saints opposed him to the point where he felt he must return to Jerusalem to be sure he was not running in vain.

When Peter came to Antioch and separated himself from the Gentiles, fearing those who were of the circumcision, it must have disappointed Paul. He had to 'point the finger' at a pillar of the church of Jerusalem, to an esteemed apostle.

Several times we read in Acts where Paul endured stonings or other forms of physical abuse from unbelievers, and in his letters we read about those who deserted him, who loved the world more than Christ. We also discover that even those whom he led to Christ, those saints of the churches he started, failed to stay fast to the Gospel message he preached to them.

Through all his disappointments he is an example to us:

12. In his willingness to proclaim the true Gospel of Christ against all odds.
13. In his tremendous love for the lost, and in particular, his family the Jewish nation.
14. In his desire to hold others accountable, keeping them true to the faith.

15. In his sacrificial giving of himself to the ministry.
16. In his willingness to acknowledge that not everyone will be as committed as he and that he might have to let go of some.
17. In his incredible love for the Lord and faith in God.
18. In his perseverance.
People let Paul down.

For I have no man likeminded, who will naturally care for your state. For all seek their own, not the things which are Jesus Christ's. Philippians 2:20-21

Holding faith, and a good conscience; which some having put away concerning faith have made shipwreck: of whom is Hymenaeus and Alexander; whom I have delivered unto Satan, that they may learn not to blaspheme. I Timothy 1:19-20

For Demas hath forsaken me, having loved this present world, and is departed unto Thessalonica; Crescens to Galatia, Titus unto Dalmatia. II Timothy 4:10

Yet in all his disappointments and hurts, Paul held onto the Lord. It wasn't God that disappointed him. It was man.

*At my first answer no man stood with me, but all men forsook me: I pray God that it may not be laid to their charge. Notwithstanding **the Lord stood with me, and strengthened me**; that by me the preaching might be fully known, and that all the Gentiles might hear: and I was delivered out of the mouth of the lion. And **the Lord shall deliver me from every evil work, and will preserve me** unto His heavenly kingdom: to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen. II Timothy 4:16-18*

What a powerful example. Paul's confidence in the Lord held him on his course. He turned neither to the left or the right. He was not swayed by peer pressure. He did not cave to culture. Lonely? Yes, I think he felt that way at times. Defeated? No. He turned to God. Found his comfort and strength in his Saviour, and kept moving forward, proclaiming the Gospel.

Lord, help me to follow Your example and that of the Apostle Paul. Keep me on the course You've set for me despite the naysayers and those who oppose me.

Dysfunctional families have become the norm... that was never meant to be!