



Sermon Title: What To Do When Someone Betrays You

Series: When Life Doesn't Make Sense

Passages: Genesis 37, Genesis 39:1-2, Romans 12:9-21

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Drawing near to Jesus is the best thing you can do on your worst day.

Genesis 37:12–28 (CSB)

¹²His brothers had gone to pasture their father's flocks at Shechem.

¹³Israel said to Joseph, "Your brothers, you know, are pasturing the flocks at Shechem. Get ready. I'm sending you to them." "I'm ready," Joseph replied.

¹⁴Then Israel said to him, "Go and see how your brothers and the flocks are doing, and bring word back to me." So he sent him from the Hebron Valley, and he went to Shechem.

¹⁵A man found him there, wandering in the field, and asked him, "What are you looking for?"

¹⁶"I'm looking for my brothers," Joseph said. "Can you tell me where they are pasturing their flocks?"

¹⁷“They’ve moved on from here,” the man said. “I heard them say, ‘Let’s go to Dothan.’” So Joseph set out after his brothers and found them at Dothan.

¹⁸They saw him in the distance, and before he had reached them, they plotted to kill him.

¹⁹They said to one another, “Oh, look, here comes that dream expert!

²⁰So now, come on, let’s kill him and throw him into one of the pits. We can say that a vicious animal ate him. Then we’ll see what becomes of his dreams!”

²¹When Reuben heard this, he tried to save him from them. He said, “Let’s not take his life.”

²²Reuben also said to them, “Don’t shed blood. Throw him into this pit in the wilderness, but don’t lay a hand on him” —intending to rescue him from them and return him to his father.

²³When Joseph came to his brothers, they stripped off Joseph’s robe, the long-sleeved robe that he had on.

²⁴Then they took him and threw him into the pit. The pit was empty, without water.

²⁵They sat down to eat a meal, and when they looked up, there was a caravan of Ishmaelites coming from Gilead. Their camels were carrying aromatic gum, balsam, and resin, going down to Egypt.

²⁶Judah said to his brothers, “What do we gain if we kill our brother and cover up his blood?

²⁷Come on, let’s sell him to the Ishmaelites and not lay a hand on him, for he is our brother, our own flesh,” and his brothers agreed.

²⁸When Midianite traders passed by, his brothers pulled Joseph out of the pit and sold him for twenty pieces of silver to the Ishmaelites, who took Joseph to Egypt.

What Should You Do When Someone Betrays You?

1. Remember That The Lord Is With You

Genesis 39:1–2 (CSB)

¹Now Joseph had been taken to Egypt. An Egyptian named Potiphar, an officer of Pharaoh and the captain of the guards, bought him from the Ishmaelites who had brought him there.

²The Lord was with Joseph, and he became a successful man, serving in the household of his Egyptian master.

2. Fervently Pray

Romans 12:12 (CSB)

¹²Rejoice in hope; be patient in affliction; be persistent in prayer.

3. Bless, Don't Curse

Romans 12:14 (CSB)

¹⁴Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse.

4. Forgive, Don't Retaliate

Romans 12:17 (CSB)

¹⁷Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Give careful thought to do what is honorable in everyone's eyes.

5. Live At Peace, As Long As It Depends On You

Romans 12:18 (CSB)

¹⁸If possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone.

Jesus is faithful even when people aren't.

Study Questions

- What do you think of when you hear the word *betrayal*? What emotions does the word stir up?
- If you were Joseph, what emotions would you have felt when you were betrayed by your family?
- How did Jesus handle being betrayed by Judas in John 13?
- From the sermon there are five things you should do when you experience betrayal. Which of these is the hardest for you to do when someone betrays your trust?

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