
Overcoming Betrayal To Love (Suffer No Further)

The Power of God's Love

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Sermon: The Power of God's Love: Overcoming Betrayal To Love (Suffer No Further)

Lesson Text

Matthew 24:10–13 (KJV)¹⁰ And then shall many be offended, and shall betray one another, and shall hate one another. ¹¹ And many false prophets shall rise, and shall deceive many. ¹² And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold. ¹³ But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved.

Luke 22:47–51 (KJV)⁴⁷ And while he yet spake, behold a multitude, and he that was called Judas, one of the twelve, went before them, and drew near unto Jesus to kiss him. ⁴⁸ But Jesus said unto him, **Judas, betrayest thou the Son of man with a kiss?** ⁴⁹ When they which were about him saw what would follow, they said unto him, Lord, shall we smite with the sword? ⁵⁰ And one of them smote the servant of the high priest, and cut off his right ear. ⁵¹ And Jesus answered and said, **Suffer ye thus far.** And he touched his ear, and healed him.

Romans 12:19–21 (KJV)¹⁹ Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but *rather* give place unto wrath: for it is written, Vengeance *is* mine; I will repay, saith the Lord. ²⁰ Therefore if thine enemy hunger, feed him; if he thirst, give him drink: for in so doing thou shalt heap coals of fire on his head. ²¹ Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good.

Introduction

Again, our theme for 2026 is “The Power of God’s Love” based on a New Commandment from Jesus: John 13: ³⁴ **A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another.** ³⁵ **By this shall all *men* know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.**

But it’s the next verse that both intrigues and yet saddens me the most: John 13: ³⁵ **By this shall all *men* know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.**

But we are not doing this, and our first lesson text tells us why: Matthew 24: ¹² **And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold.**

Iniquity, sin, and wickedness would cause us to lose our human affections for each other; and we would devolve into offending, betraying, and hating one another.

Now without the Holy Spirit, this behavior would be understandable. But as Christians, we have been given the Power of God’s Love to overcome these offenses, betrayal, and hate.

Last week we dealt with offenses, let’s now look at betrayal!

How many of you have ever felt betrayed?

Now when betrayed, what should be the response of the Christian?

“Don’t come for me when I didn’t send for you;” “Don’t start nothing with your mouth that your behind can’t finish;” “You gon’ walk over here, but you gon’ limp back!”

Our innate or natural instincts to betrayal and being attacked is to attack back— they bring their sword, we pull out ours. In other words, we give back what we are given!

- Luke 22: ⁴⁹ When they which were about him saw what would follow, they said unto him, Lord, shall we smite with the sword?
- Luke 22: ⁵⁰ And one of them smote the servant of the high priest, and cut off his right ear.

But look now at how Jesus wants us to respond: Matthew 5: ³⁸ **Ye have heard that it hath been said, An eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth: ³⁹ But I say unto you, That ye resist not evil: but whosoever shall smite thee on thy right cheek, turn to him the other also.**

To “Resist not evil” simply means don’t react to evil with evil: Romans 12:21 (KJV)²¹ Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good.

Luke 22: ⁵¹ And Jesus answered and said, **Suffer ye thus far.** And he touched his ear, and healed him.

“Suffer ye thus far” simply means not more of this, no more eye for an eye, no more tooth for a tooth, stop all this, go no further!

Series and Sermon: The Power of God’s Love: Overcoming Betrayal To Love (Suffer No Further)

(Suffer No Further Your Emotions, Suffer No Further Your Sword, Suffer No Further Your Response)

I. Suffer No Further Your Emotions (The Kiss of Betrayal)

Luke 22: ⁴⁷ And while he yet spake, behold a multitude, and he that was called Judas, one of the twelve, went before them, and drew near unto Jesus to kiss him. ⁴⁸ But Jesus said unto him, **Judas, betrayest thou the Son of man with a kiss?**

One of the first things we must deal with concerning betrayal is how it impacts our emotions.

Unlike offences which can come from anyplace or anyone, which is why they are impossible to avoid, betrayal comes from those who are close to us.

- Psalm 41:9 (KJV)⁹ Yea, mine own familiar friend, in whom I trusted, which did eat of my bread, hath lifted up *his* heel against me.
- Luke 22: ⁴⁸ But Jesus said unto him, **Judas, betrayest thou the Son of man with a kiss?**
- What David reveals here is that betrayal comes from one’s best friend, from those you allow to kiss you. Those you trust completely, who come to the house to eat.

And because betrayal comes from lovers and friends, it touches a deep place in our emotional soul. We are not offended, we are hurt, broken hearted, crushed, and even emotionally damaged.

The kiss of betrayal means that they use the thing that is closest to us to betrayal.

But Jesus said, “**Suffer ye thus far**” – Suffer No Further Your Emotions, use God’s Love!

Ephesians 4:26 (KJV)²⁶ Be ye angry, and sin not: let not the sun go down upon your wrath:

In other words, don't let your emotions dictate what you do next. You're angry, but go no further. You're hurt and broken, but go no further; crushed and devastated, but go no further!

II. Suffer No Further Your Reactions (The Sword of Betrayal)

Luke 22: ⁴⁹ When they which were about him saw what would follow, they said unto him, Lord, shall we smite with the sword? ⁵⁰ And one of them smote the servant of the high priest, and cut off his right ear.

The next thing we must deal with concerning betrayal is how we react to the sword.

The sword represents the weapon used by one to attack his or her perceived enemy. And when one has been attacked by a sword, their natural response is to pull out their own sword.

Hurt people, hurt people. And people who have been hurt by betrayal, they want to hurt back.

Like the disciples, before we even get an answer as to if we should attack back, someone has already used their sword.

Vengeance overwhelms us, it pushes us to react by pulling out our swords to get revenge. You came for me, and I'm coming back.

But Jesus said, “**Suffer ye thus far**” – Suffer No More Your Sword, use God’s Love!

Matthew 26: ⁵² Then said Jesus unto him, **Put up again thy sword into his place: for all they that take the sword shall perish with the sword.**

Jesus was saying, “I know how to fight, but Love gives me the power to choose not to fight!”

Matthew 26: ⁵³ **Thinkest thou that I cannot now pray to my Father, and he shall presently give me more than twelve legions of angels?** ⁵⁴ But how then shall the scriptures be fulfilled, that thus it must be?

Romans 12: ¹⁹ Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but *rather* give place unto wrath: for it is written, Vengeance *is* mine; I will repay, saith the Lord.

III. Suffer No Further Your Response (The Healing of Betrayal)

Luke 22: ⁵¹ And Jesus answered and said, **Suffer ye thus far.** And he touched his ear, and healed him.

- Suffer No Further Your Emotions: Be Angry but Sin No!
- Suffer No Further Your Reactions: Put Away Your Sword!
- Suffer No Further Your Response: Don't Hurt Them, Heal Them!

The final thing we must deal with concerning betrayal is how we respond to it.

Romans 12: ²⁰ Therefore if thine enemy hunger, feed him; if he thirst, give him drink: for in so doing thou shalt heap coals of fire on his head.

Our human response to our betrayers is when they are hungry, let them starve; when they are thirsty, let them suffer.

Romans 12:²¹ Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good.

But Jesus' response was to overcome their betrayal with healing: Luke 22: ⁵¹ And Jesus answered and said, **Suffer ye thus far.** And he touched his ear, and healed him.

Matthew 5: ⁴³ **Ye have heard that it hath been said, Thou shalt love thy neighbour, and hate thine enemy.** ⁴⁴ **But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you;**

I know what you've been told, and what you've been taught, but Suffer No Further!

Suffer No Further their Betrayal, Overcome it with Healing

Suffer No Further their Hatred, Overcome it with Love

Suffer No Further their Curses, Overcome it with Goodness

Suffer No Further their Despiteful Misuse and Persecution, Overcome it with Prayer

Midweek Study Lesson Plan (Sermon: Overcoming Betrayal To Love (Suffer No Further))

Lesson Text

- Matthew 24:10–13, Luke 22:47–51, Romans 12:19–21

Sermon Outline

- I. *Suffer No Further Your Emotions (The Kiss of Betrayal)*
- II. *Suffer No Further Your Reactions (The Sword of Betrayal)*
- III. *Suffer No Further Your Response (The Healing of Betrayal)*

Questions: (What was your main takeaway from this message?)

I. Getting to Know “Me”

1. If your life came with a set of instructions, what would the opening instruction be?
2. You are granted a 3-item vending machine named after you. What's in it?

II. Into The Bible

1. Read Luke 22:51-53. What can we learn from Jesus's response to Judas' betrayal?
2. Read Matthew 5:10-12. How might this promise help us to focus on forgiveness rather than vengeance?

III. Life Application

1. Think of a significant betrayal you have experienced and answer the following questions:
 - i) What was your immediate reaction to the revelation of the betrayal and can you describe the initial shock that you felt?
 - ii) In the days, weeks, and possibly years that followed, how did that betrayal manifest itself physically, emotionally, and spiritually in your life? What was the “toll” it took on your overall well-being?
 - iii) As you look back on that experience, what steps have you taken on your healing journey that have helped you to process the pain and to begin to move forward?