

The Spirit of Glory and the Culture of Betrayal

I. REVIEW: JESUS' COMMAND NOT TO LET TROUBLE DOMINATE OUR HEART

- A. Jesus commanded the disciples not to let trouble dominate their hearts (14:1).

1 “Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God [a fact], believe also in Me.” 27My peace I give to you... Let not your heart be troubled... (Jn. 14:1, 27)

- B. 7 reasons why they were troubled: **Trouble #1**—Death of their beloved leader and friend: (Jn. 13:36-38) **Trouble #2**—Personal failure: (Mt. 26:31; Jn. 13:38). **Trouble #3**—Bitterness of betrayal: (Jn 13:21) **Trouble #4**—Crisis in the culture: Pressures disrupted the social order (Mt. 24:4-12) **Trouble #5**—Persecution: (Mt 24:9) **Trouble #6**—National destruction: Jerusalem and the temple destroyed (Mt 24:2) **Trouble #7**—Delay of God's promises:

- C. On Tuesday, He prophesied that His disciples would be hated by people who would betray them — by those in a close relationship with them—including family members and friends

8“All these are the beginning of sorrows. 9Then...you will be hated by all nations for My name... 10Then many will be offended, will betray...and hate one another...12lawlessness will abound... (Mt. 24:8-12)

16“You will be betrayed even by parents and brothers, relatives and friends...” (Lk. 21:16)

II. WHAT IS BETRAYAL AND WHY DO PEOPLE DO IT

10Then many will be offended, will betray...and hate one another...12lawlessness will abound... (Mt. 24:10-12)

- A. Offended (Mt. 24:10): Today many are getting angrier and more quickly offended, causing them to have less capacity to cope with pressure so they strike out and betray people more. When many people get offended they self justify their betrayal. They don't call it betrayal they call it justice.. they do not see it as betrayal.
- B. (Many)will betray: This includes undermining or harming a friend or family member by words or deeds. Betrayal includes seeking to gain money or other advantages by undermining others. Betrayal will intensify to include some aiding authorities leading to the death of a family member. Betrayer undermine you behind your back while smiling to your face. They often do this because they are offended with you.

III. BIBLICAL VIEW/BENEFIT OF PERSECUTION: TRAINING GROUND FOR BELIEVERS

- A. Persecution is both a demonic attack to hinder our spiritual growth and a divine gift to enhance it. God “granted” that His people be persecuted (Phil. 1:29) so they may be transformed in context to it for their benefit in this age (Dan. 11:35; Rom. 5:3-5; 1 Pet. 4:1) and the age to come (2 Cor. 4:17).

29For to you it has been granted on behalf of Christ...to suffer for His sake... (Phil. 1:29)

- B. The Lord uses persecution to transform His people and cause them to cease from sin (1 Pet.4:1).

1...he who has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin, 2 that he no longer should live...for the lusts of men...

- C. Peter assured believers that the spirit of glory will rest on those who are persecuted (1 Pet. 4:14). Greater activity of the holy spirit working through you.

14If you are reproached...the Spirit of glory...rests on you... (1 Pet. 4:1-2, 14)

- D. When God is establishing a strategic kingdom purpose, God allows those who will betray to get into the inner circle of a leadership team in order to test, train, and transform His servants. Whenever there is a Holy Spirit move or establishment of God’s kingdom purpose there will always be people in the midst of the move who God will use to train His leader(s). Whenever there is a move of God there is a jealous Saul, an ambitious and offended Absalom, religious jealous Pharisees and there will be the money loving opportunist like Judas.

- E. Most costly and painful type of persecution is betrayal. Betrayal comes from those in whom you are in a familiar relation with. You can’t be betrayed by a stranger. Betrayal is also the most transformative type of persecution—as we respond rightly to God. The pain of betrayal touches our hearts at a very deep level. We become desperate to touch God in the deepest places of our heart in order to have His peace in the face of this pain.

- F. We can encounter God’s love for us in a greater way in times when we are betrayed—as the spirit of glory rests on us (1 Pet. 4:14), as we see our deficiencies more clearly, and we experience God’s love for those who betray us. Showing love to a friend who betrays us displays God’s love in us.

44“...bless those who curse you, do good...45that you may be sons of your Father...” (Mt. 5:44-45)

IV. JESUS PREPARES THE DISCIPLES WITH THIS REALITY

1“These things I have spoken to you, that you should not be made to stumble [fall away]. 2They will put you out of the synagogues; yes, the time is coming that whoever kills you will think that he offers God service...4 remember that I told you [these things].” (Jn. 16:1-4)

- A. Jesus prepared His disciples to be persecuted (Jn. 15:18-16:4) so that they would not stumble or fall away (Jn. 16:1). In John 16:2, Jesus highlighted the most costly and painful type of persecution—betrayal—because it comes from those that we are in a familiar relationship with.
- B. *You should not stumble [fall away]*: Our greatest danger is not being persecuted but falling away. The ultimate spiritual failure of denying Jesus is far worse than physical harm.
- C. *Remember*: Jesus emphasized the importance that His people remember (15:20; 16:4) that persecution was sure to come to all nations (Mt. 24:9), and to remember why God allows it, what benefits result to His people from it, and what God promised to do as He intervenes to help us.
- D. *They will put you out of the synagogues*: Inclusion in the synagogue was very important since most of Israel’s relational, social, economic, and spiritual life was deeply connected to the synagogue. Being censored from the synagogue or “shunned” left Jewish people in a very difficult position. It was painful to be “put out” of the community that their family had been in for generations.
- E. *Whoever kills you will think he offers God service*: End-time persecution will come from religious authorities (Rev. 17) as well as from the secular state (Rev. 13). Those who believe that they serve God when killing “Christian heretics” are more zealous and bold in pursuing them.

V. THE TROUBLE OF BETRAYING

- A. Jesus was troubled by Judas’s betrayal (Jn. 13:21) not because He felt rejected or thought God’s will would be hindered by it as He knew within 24 hours both of them would have died. *Jesus felt pain over the fate of one He loved but who refused His kindness.* The apostles watched Jesus go from being troubled to showing “friendship” to Judas within about 6 hours. Jesus asked Judas

49...[Judas] went up to Jesus and said, “Greetings, Rabbi!” and kissed Him. 50Jesus said to him, “Friend, why have you come?” Then they...laid hands on Jesus and took Him. (Mt. 26:49-50)

- B. A thief, evildoer, or busybody suffers consequences externally in their circumstance if they get caught and internally as demonic darkness attacks their mind and emotions in a greater way.

15Let none of you suffer as...a thief, an evildoer, or a busybody... (1 Pet. 4:15)

VI. HOW SHOULD WE RESPOND (MICAH 7)

- A. Jesus referenced the betrayal in Micah's day when prophesying the betrayal in the end times (Mk. 13:12). Micah felt pain seeing friends or family members (7:5-6) betraying one another for money (7:3). He lamented the lack of godly leaders in the public square (7:2) and a multitude of wicked leaders—princes (government leaders), judges and the great men (market place leaders, etc.)—who perverted justice for financial gain, asking for gifts, bribes, and “pay-offs.”

1Woe is me!...2The faithful man has perished...every man hunts his brother with a net 3 the prince asks for gifts, the judge seeks a bribe, and the great man utters his evil desire [he betrays for money]; so they scheme together. 5Do not trust in a friend...6For son dishonors father, daughter rises against her mother...a man's enemies are the men of his household. (Mic. 7:1-6)

- B. Response #1 is to look to the Lord, pray, and wait on Him to help and vindicate (7:7).

7...I will look to [and]...wait for the God of my salvation; He will hear me. (Mic 7:7)

- C. Response #2 to be determined to arise with confidence in God's promises (7:8). Micah may have fallen—by lacking in obedience, love, or mercy in being offended or bitter at those who betrayed him—but he determined to arise to walk in love, mercy, humility, and more.

8When I fall, I will arise; when I sit in darkness, the Lord will be a light to me... (Mic. 7:8)

- D. Response #3 is to bear God's loving discipline without “quitting” our divine assignment (7:9). In times of betrayal we have the opportunity to see our deficiencies in our obedience, love, humility, faith, etc. Micah did not indulge in self-pity, but humbled himself to see the unperceived “fault lines” in his life in order to grow in love, humility, faith, mercy, etc.

9 I will bear the indignation [discipline] of the LORD, because I have sinned against Him, until He pleads my case...I will see His righteousness. (Mic. 7:9)

- E. Response #4 is to worship God for His unique kindness—in freely pardoning our sins (7:18). We are filled with gratitude for His extravagant mercy. God delights in giving mercy to His people—this empowers us to delight in giving mercy to others which heals and unifies people.

18Who is a God like You, pardoning iniquity...because He delights in mercy... (Mic. 7:18)