

DAY 37 BETRAY

Matthew 26.21

“Truly I tell you, one of you will betray me.”

I remember moving to a new town in 6th grade. We'd moved a lot in those years, and I wasn't looking forward to making new friends. My dad had taken a church job so that was our social structure for the summer before school started. I immediately made a friend at church which was a big relief and ended up being a really fun summer. Then 6th grade started. Suddenly, hanging out with the new kid was the last thing my new friend wanted to

do. I tried saying hi to him in the hall and he wouldn't talk to me. The cutting blow was when he joined a kid who had made it his job to make me miserable. I was so caught off guard. I felt betrayed. I didn't understand fully what happened or what, but I carried that betrayal into high school. Even now, 25 years later there's a sting as I relive the story.

We weren't created for betrayal. Relationships aren't made to be severed. Hearts aren't meant to be broken. And yet, this side of heaven, we have all experienced the crushing pain of betrayal. Our word today, betrayal and our verse remind us of the ultimate betrayal. Imagine the pain Jesus experienced as the crowds that sang his praises just days before begin to turn on him. Peter denies him. Judas kisses him. His other friends desert him. Jesus suffered betrayal, and that means he understands the betrayal's you have suffered. Maybe even the betrayals that you've held on to for years.

As we intentionally embrace the way of Jesus, was does it look like to face those betrayals head on? Could our betrayals also become moments to live more passionately in our calling as followers of the betrayed one?

Daily Practice

Bring the pain of your betrayals to God today. How is God calling you to live with them? Make a solemn commitment that you will always seek to be faithful to the promises you have made.

The below reflections are written by congregants & staff of CPC. All reflections are following Trevor Hudson's book Pauses for Lent and are both heavily influenced and borrowed from his work. Any quotes without attribution should be credited to him.