

Been Betrayed?

Proverbs 18

I was recently reminded of how absolutely disconcerting betrayal can be; in a split second it can turn one's world upside down – literally! And the wild thing is that it has a boomerang effect, spilling hurt into the lives of everyone closely connected to both betrayer and betrayed. Trust evaporates, friendships are disrupted, lives change, and everything is questioned. You begin to wonder if everything you believed you knew about this person was a lie to begin with. You thought you were so happy; so what changed? Where did you go wrong? Why hadn't you seen it coming? How could you have missed the signs? What could you have done to have prevented this nightmare? Will it always hurt this badly? Who do you trust? Where do you go from here?

I wish I could offer every hurting heart a sure formula to keep betrayal from happening, but that's something no one can do. We live in a broken world where things at times are prone to get messy. And whether betrayal is done spitefully or unintentionally, the simple truth is that it will occur. No one lives a lifetime without knowing firsthand the sting of betrayal. That said, without making light of the pain caused by betrayal, we need not allow ourselves to go through life all distraught and fearful. Instead we can begin to approach our relationships with healthy realism – People at best are imperfect and may hurt us, even when they never mean to. Of course, knowing that may do nothing to minimize our pain, but the time will come when we may very well find ourselves not on the receiving end of a betrayal, but on the giving end. That's when we'll see how absurd it really is to always expect perfection from an imperfect human being!

We have all experienced the beauty and delights of good friendships. How freeing it is to open our hearts and share our souls with those we trust! However, the moment we lose our perspective and forget that people are simply people, we are setting ourselves up for sure heartbreak. There is no human friend, who will be there for us one hundred per cent of the time, who is able to meet all our needs every single time, who completely understands us all of the time, who is always available every time we call, who will never disappoint us.

We may have faithful friends who are precious and dear, but we must know that the best of our friends could fail us, if for no other reason, because they are human. When we begin to look to another human being to make us happy all the time, we can go to pieces if that person ever betrays us. Friendship with Jesus is the only relationship that allows us the freedom to be who we truly are – people with flaws, weaknesses, shortcomings, insecurities and dysfunctions – without any fear of rejection, disappointment or betrayal!