

Scar Wars
Week 3: Overcoming Betrayal 4-3-16
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Week 3 of our Series Scar Wars...looking at wounds and how to find healing for the wars that brokenness can lead us to. Today, Betrayal.

What is Betrayal?

- A breaking of Trust
- For the kids: A story of the Nickels

Recovering from betrayal is one of life's biggest challenges:

- A family member stealing from you.
- A friend sharing your secret with others.
- The affair of a spouse.
- A loved one calling you bad names.
- Being physically harmed by somebody you love.
- A parent who walked out of your life....

What can cause betrayal?

1. Comes when we focus on self

“Then Judas Iscariot, one of the twelve disciples, went to the leading priests and asked, “How much will you pay me to betray Jesus to you?” And they gave him thirty pieces of silver. From that time on, Judas began looking for an opportunity to betray Jesus.”

-Matthew 26:14-16

Judas betrayed Jesus for a mere 30 pieces of silver. We do the same. We give up everything for very little. ***It's all about me!***

- An affair gives us 30 minutes of pleasure
- A pill makes us feel good for a few hours
- A little bit of money allows us to buy something
- Belittling others may give us a little self-esteem or power

Have you ever betrayed a friendship, a love, a friend, for money or something of value?

2. (Betrayal) Comes from those closest to us

- Those we love the most (friends at work, friends at school, family)

Peter, Judas

- Peter, one of the inner circle whom Jesus cherished (Peter, James and John....Ministry opportunities, Transfiguration)
- Judas, entrusted as their Treasurer,
- Often times we are caught off guard, surprised, embarrassed that we were betrayed

3. (Betrayal) Usually seems like a good idea . . . at the time

Peter

“Peter swore, “A curse on me if I’m lying—I don’t know the man!” And immediately the rooster crowed. Suddenly, Jesus’ words flashed through Peter’s mind: “Before the rooster crows, you will deny three times that you even know me.” And he went away, weeping bitterly.”
-Mt 26:74-75

Peter often spoke before he thought through things.

- He’s covering for himself (at the time)
- He’s panicking, filled with fear
- He’s up against the wall....seems like a good to deny Jesus!

When he denied Jesus it seemed like a good idea at the time:

- If I gossip I might get the promotion
- If I sleep with her I will find love I don’t get at home
- Peter chose his reputation over friendship
- He chose fear over faith

Consider Judas

“When Judas, who had betrayed him, realized that Jesus had been condemned to die, he was filled with remorse. So he took the thirty

pieces of silver back to the leading priests and the elders. **(looking back:** “I have sinned,” he declared, “for I have betrayed an innocent man.” “What do we care?” they retorted. “That’s your problem.” Then Judas threw the silver coins down in the Temple and went out and hanged himself.”
-Matthew 27:3-5

Judas died. We may not experience physical death upon betraying another. But we will experience a death:

- Death of a dream
- Death of a relationship
- Death of our character and integrity
- Death of our self-worth

All because it seemed like a good idea at the time.

Some steps to Overcoming Betrayal

How do you want to be defined?

- Hurt or healing?
- Broken or becoming whole?
- Betrayed or beginning again?

Step 1: If you’ve been betrayed

1. Don’t return betrayal with betrayal (evil with evil)

“Do not take revenge, my dear friends, but leave room for God’s wrath, for it is written: “It is mine to avenge; I will repay,” says the Lord.”
-Romans 12:19

- ‘You know, ‘I will have an affair, too’ (get even)
- ‘I’ll just snitch him out now’ (break confidentiality)

Resist it. Cry out to God, friends, your pastor....Don’t do it!

A betrayer faces devastating long-term consequences (Peter had painful memories, Judas lost his hope).

2. Find refuge in God.

“The LORD is my rock, my fortress, and my savior; my God is my rock, in whom I find protection. He is my shield, the power that saves me, and my place of safety.” -Psalm 18:2

- This isn't a band-aid approach. Learn to pray, to sit, to listen...lean on God, stay with him, in Him

3. Seek the help of others.

“Bear each other's burdens and fulfill the Law of Christ.”
- Galatians 6:2

- Don't take this journey alone
- Find advice, support and wisdom from trusted sources
- Let God minister to you through His Body / believers

4. Give yourself time to heal.

Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer.”
-Romans 12:12

5. Trust again. Bible says “I can do all things through Christ who gives me strength!”

- Distrusting everybody is no way to go through life. Not right now. But plan to move forward...
- Jesus did. The Apostle Paul did. Others have. We can, too.

For the Betrayer:

Restoration come through love and serving:

1. Jesus to Peter:

Peter, do you love me? 3 times

2. What did Jesus tell Peter to do? How do we love those we have betrayed? Serving others

If you love me, feed my sheep

If you love me, take care of my sheep
If you love me, feed my sheep

If we have betrayed Jesus, we need to love him.

- Commit to obedience
- Baby step: Today, Jesus, I will pray / give / serve