

Betrayal

The history of angels and man is filled with betrayal. Both angels and man betrayed God. Man betrays God and man. Some betrayals are real and some just feel like betrayal.

- The Lord Jesus on the night He was betrayed – Eucharist (1Cor 11:23)
- Joseph believes Mary has betrayed him by committing adultery. He is wrong, has reached a false conclusion, but at the moment he feels like it is real.

(Mat 1:18-19)

Vs.18 The birth of Jesus Christ happened in this way

Vs.18 Having been engaged – official, legal arrangement as binding as marriage

Vs.18 Before they had engaged in sex – no pre-marital sex

Vs.18 She was discovered – **eurisko** – A.P.Ind. – [Aorist – point in time]; [Passive – she was showing];

Vs.18 With child – (**echo**) P.A.Ptc – discovered while having a child in her womb

- Apparently Mary didn't volunteer the information that she was pregnant by HS
- Joseph noticed that she was showing – discovered her pregnancy

Vs.19 Joseph: being righteous & not willing to publicly disgrace her

Vs.19 Decided – **boulomai** – A.P.Ind. – desire, plan, decide; [Aorist – came to a decision]; [Passive – felt like the situation was forcing his hand]

Vs.19 To divorce her quietly.

- Joseph could not see any other option – felt forced into this decision
- Joseph believed he had been betrayed – decided to separate himself from betrayer

Chronologies:

Mary: Eliz 6 months pregnant; Gabriel visits Mary; Mary visits Eliz, returns home 3 months later
Joseph: engaged to Mary; Mary gone for 3 months; Mary returns showing; he decides to divorce her!

Principles/Passage:

1. Both Joseph and Mary were spiritually advancing believers who lived +R lives.

- Joseph was righteous – imputed +R and experiential +R from growth & obedience
- Both, when they heard the will of God, immediately obeyed

2. The last thing Joseph expected was for Mary to betray him by adultery

- She left in a hurry, gone 3 months and comes back pregnant & showing
- Her explanation is not given – Joseph decided she had been unfaithful
- Joseph's felt the facts forced the conclusion – Passive of **boulomai** – betrayal

3. Joseph based his conclusion on circumstances using human logic.

- Situation sent him into shock, frying his spiritual circuits, went to human logic
- Spiritual world & God's will are not dependent or determined by circumstances

4. False assumptions à false conclusions à false beliefs à false applications

- His assumption à only one way Mary could be pregnant à betrayal by adultery
- His assumption à only one decision he could make à divorce quietly

Based on surprising & painful circumstances Joseph, using human logic, made a false assumption about Mary's behavior (betrayal). His false assumption caused him to reach a false conclusion/belief. Based on his false belief, he decided to make a bad decision.

Betrayal

1. **Definition:**

Treachery or disloyalty; to be unfaithful in guarding, maintaining, or fulfilling; to betray a trust; to disappoint hopes or expectations be disloyal to: to betray friends; to reveal, disclose in violation of confidence (Dictionary.com)

- a. Self-interest motivates one to violate a trust, a promise/vow causing harm to another.
- b. Betray: (1) trust bond (2) real / implied agreement (3) violation (4) harm to one trusting
- c. Betrayal can be real: (Lucifer betrays God) or imagined: (Mary betrays Joseph)
- d. Harm: intentional: (Brothers **à** Joseph) or unintentional: (divorce **à** children).
 - All feel betrayed regardless of its validity or internationality.

2. **Angelic & human history can be outlined following betrayals against God.**

- a. Lucifer betrays God – (Ezek 28:12-19; 12-14) God’s gracious creation of Lucifer; (Vs.15-19) Lucifer’s treacherous betrayal of his God – (Vs 16,18) slandered God in rebellion
- b. Adam & Eve betray God – satan betrays Eve; Eve betrays Adam; both betray God (Gen 3:1-6)
- c. Judas betrays Jesus – led the soldiers to lead Jesus to the cross (Lk 22:47-48)
 - First 2 betrayals caused the falls of angels & mankind – began the Angelic Conflict
 - Last betrayal marked the solution and God’s victory in the Angelic Conflict
 - God allowed these betrayals and uses them to achieve His purposes.

3. **Real betrayal causes real pain to both the betrayer and those betrayed.**

- a. Angels who betrayed God will exist forever in a horrible state of pain (Mt 25:41)
- b. Adam & Eve suffering: condemnation, curses, lost / garden, sin nature inherited, murdered son
- c. Cain killed Abel – Abel lost his life & Cain lived under a special curse
- d. Brothers sold Joseph – Brothers lived in guilt & fear; Joseph lived as a slave
- e. Judas betrayed Jesus – Jesus was unfairly executed; Judas’ guilt caused suicide

4. **Human sin & failure can cause those caught in it to feel betrayed.**

- a. Divorce is a marital failure - harms the children – they feel betrayed by parents
 - Kids trust parents to stay & care for them; implied agreement; violation; trust broken
- b. Adultery is sinful self indulgence - unintentional harm to spouse – feel betrayed
 - Mates trust spouse to honor vows to be emotionally & sexually faithful
- c. Spiritual leaders who fall through immorality can take whole congregations down.
 - Paul does nothing to discredit the ministry (2Cor 6:3-4)

5. **God forgives those who betray Him & seeks reconciliation**

- a. Promise of the seed of the woman – forgive their sin & betrayal (Gen 3:15)
- b. Christ is the atoning sacrifice for the sins of the whole world (1Jn 2:2)
- c. His ambassadors pleading with the world to be reconciled w God (2Cor 5:16-21)

6. **God uses the betrayals against Him/children to bless even the betrayers.**

- a. Adam & Eve betray God - condemned all mankind so that He could justify/faith (Rom 3:21-26)
- b. Joseph betrayed by brothers – preserved their lives & seed of Messiah (Gen 37-50)
- c. Judas betrays Jesus – led Him to the cross where He paid for the sins of the world

(Matthew 5:44) 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 spitefully use you, and persecute you;

Joseph made wrong assumptions; felt betrayed by Mary & felt his world had come to an end. In spite of his pain, he decided to deal kindly with her. Betrayal breaks trust & ends love. Betrayal reveals misplaced trust & God uses it to redirect us to Him.

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As of Last Complete Printing
Number of Pages: 3
Number of Words: 945 (approx.)
Number of Characters: 5,393 (approx.)