

Give ear to my prayer, O God, and do not hide Yourself from my pleas for mercy! Listen to me and answer me. I hear the voices of my enemies, I feel their oppression, and I am filled with restlessness and pain. They have a grudge against me, and now they are heaping trouble on me. My heart is anguished. I am overcome with fear. Oh, that I had wings like a dove and could fly away from all this. I would fly somewhere safe, somewhere I could be alone without having to deal with any of this. But instead, I will call on You, O Lord. I know You will rescue me. Morning, noon and night-all day long, and all through the hours of darkness when I cannot sleep-I will express all my feelings to You. And I know that You will hear me. You will rescue me from all this trouble. Even though my enemies are still against me, You will keep me safe. I give You this heavy burden, Lord; I know You will take care of me. You will never let me slip and fall. I am counting on You, God.

(Psalm 55:1-7, 16-18, 22-23)



Prayers for Difficult Times  
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## Betrayal



*It is not an enemy who taunts me-I could bear that. It is not my foes who so arrogantly insult me-I could have hidden from them. Instead, it is you-my equal, my companion and close friend. What a good fellowship we once enjoyed as we walked together to the house of God.*

Psalm 55:12-14 NLT

Dear Father, help me to forgive those who have trespassed the boundaries of my life-as You have forgiven my trespasses. Give me strength to forgive the debts of hurt-as You have forgiven my debts. Remind me that I, too, have made mistakes. I have hurt and betrayed others, and worst of all, I have betrayed You.



Lord, make me strong in Your might. Help me to put on Your entire armor, so that I can resist the devil's schemes. I know that ultimately, this is a spiritual situation. I am not dealing with flesh and blood who want to hurt me, but rather the spiritual forces of evil. Let me clasp the shield of faith, so that I can stand firm, even now. Armor me in truth and righteousness.

(Ephesians 6:10-18)

Sooner or later, all of us feel betrayed in one way or another by someone we have trusted. People let us down. Sometimes it is unintentional, and that hurts badly enough. It is even worse when a friend purposefully stabs us in the back. The hurt can be overwhelming. It is easy to feel angry. It is only natural to want to put up our guard and protect ourselves from further pain.

It is far more challenging to follow Christ's example. He, too, knew what it was like to be betrayed by a friend. And yet He never raised His hand in anger, never spoke sharp words, never sought to return the blow in any way.

If we have chosen to be followers of Jesus Christ, then we, too, must find ways to respond with love to those who have hurt us.

Jesus, I know You understand how I feel. You, too, were betrayed by one of Your closest friends. And just as I would never focus on Judas' role in the story rather than Yours, I choose now to look to You, rather than on the people who have let me down. You are the One I am following. That has not changed



Use my pain at this betrayal for Your purposes, Creator God. Teach me through it. Draw me closer to You. Deepen my compassion for others.