

Birmingham Bible Church  
Series: Taming Your Tongue



Title: The Betraying Tongue

**“He who goes about as a gossip reveals secrets,  
But he who is trustworthy *and* faithful keeps a matter hidden.”  
Proverbs 11:13 (AMP)**

**INTRODUCTION:** A betrayer divulges information in breach of a confidence. They give information to the “enemy” and commit relational treason by violating the trust someone has placed on him. It is the treacherous exposing or deceiving of people by those they formerly trusted. It is usually associated with an enemy masquerading as a friend, or with a broken or abused relationship.

I. Betrayal is \_\_\_\_\_

“Brother will **betray** brother to death, and the father his child; and children will rise up *and* rebel against their parents and it will cause them to be put to death.”

**Matthew 10:21 (AMP)**

“For the son dishonors the father *and* treats him contemptuously,  
The daughter rises up [in hostility] against her mother,  
The daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law—  
**A man’s enemies are the men (members) of his own household.”**  
**Micah 7:6 (AMP)**

II. Betrayal is \_\_\_\_\_

“Even **my own close friend** in whom I trusted,  
who ate my bread,  
has lifted up his heel against me [**betraying me**].”  
**Psalms 41:9 (AMP)**

**“For it is not an enemy who taunts me—**

Then I could bear it;

Nor is it one who has hated me who insolently exalts himself against me—

Then I could hide from him.

**But it is you, a man my equal *and* my counsel,**

**My companion and my familiar friend;**

We who had sweet fellowship together,

Who walked to the house of God in company.”

**Psalms 55:12-14 (AMP)**

**“Your relatives, members of your own family—**

**even they have betrayed you;**

they have raised a loud cry against you.

Do not trust them,

though they speak well of you.”

**Jeremiah 12:6 (NIV)**

While He was still speaking, a crowd *came*, and the man called Judas, one of the twelve [disciples], was leading the way for them. He approached Jesus to kiss Him. <sup>48</sup> And Jesus said to him, “Judas, are you **betraying the Son of Man with a kiss?**”

**Luke 22:47-48 (AMP)**

III. Betrayal has \_\_\_\_\_

a. It will come back on the betrayer

<sup>9</sup> “If you want to tell your friends about your own problems, tell them. But don’t discuss what someone told you in private.<sup>10</sup> **Whoever hears it will lose their respect for you and will never trust you again.**”

**Proverbs 25:9-10 (Easy to Read version)**

“Oy, you destroyer, never destroyed,  
you traitor, never betrayed!

When you have stopped destroying,  
you will be destroyed;

and when you finish betraying,

**they will betray you.”**

**Isaiah 33:1 (Tree Life Version)**

b. God will rebuke you

“David went out to meet them and said to them, “If you have come peacefully to me to help me, my heart shall be united with you; but **if *you have come to betray me*** to my adversaries, since there is no violence *or* wrong in my hands, **may the God of our fathers look on [what you are doing] and punish [you].”**  
**1 Chronicles 12:17 (AMP)**

IV. Betrayal \_\_\_\_\_

“It is better to trust the Lord than to put confidence in men.”  
**Psalms 118:8 (Living Bible)**

“Those who trust in the Lord are steady as Mount Zion, unmoved by any circumstance.”  
**Psalms 125: 1 (Living Bible)**

**What do you do when someone has betrayed your confidence?**

1. \_\_\_\_\_  
Have you released the offender in your heart and no longer desire revenge?  
Instead of holding onto unforgiveness, forgive the person and yourself.

“Whenever you stand praying, if you have anything against anyone, **forgive him [drop the issue, let it go]**, so that your Father who is in heaven will also forgive you of your transgressions *and* wrongdoings [against Him and others].”  
**Mark 11:25 (AMP)**

2. \_\_\_\_\_  
God saw the betrayal before it happened but chose not to intervene just as Judas betrayed Jesus, accept it as part of His sovereign plan.

And we know [with great confidence] that **God [who is deeply concerned about us] causes all things to work together [as a plan]** for good for those who love God, to those who are called according to His plan *and* purpose.  
**Romans 8:28 (AMP)**

3. \_\_\_\_\_  
Once you know better, you do better. Be more selective in who you tell your business to. Be cautious in who you let into your life. Remove yourself from people’s lives who you don’t trust.

“**Guard your heart** above all else,  
for it determines the course of your life.”  
**Proverbs 4:23 (NLT)**

*Prayer:*

*Lord help me to be a trustworthy person and a person who can be depended upon to keep something in confidence. Help me to forgive those who have betrayed my confidence. In Jesus's Name, Amen!*

**Answer key:**

- I. Betrayal is common
- II. Betrayal is done by someone who is close to you
- III. Betrayal has consequences
- IV. Betrayal won't come from God

**What do you do when someone has betrayed your confidence?**

- 1. Forgive
- 2. Believe it's purposeful
- 3. Learn from it

**Small Group Guidelines**

- 1) Keep your sharing focused on your own thoughts and feelings.
- 2) Each person is free to express their feelings without interruption.
- 3) We are here to support one another. We will not attempt to fix one another.
- 4) Privacy and confidentiality are basic requirements. What is shared in the group stays in the group. The only exception is when someone threatens to harm themselves or others. If that is shared, contact Pastor Mason or Lady Pam immediately.

**Discussion Questions:**

- 1. Paul warned Timothy in the following verse that in the last days, people will betray their friends. Perhaps you have experienced betrayal and disloyalty.
  - a. What was your reaction when you learned of the betrayal?
  - b. What are your feelings toward that person today?

If you are harboring unforgiveness, ask God to help you release it!

"But understand this, that **in the last days dangerous times [of great stress and trouble] will come [difficult days that will be hard to bear]**. <sup>2</sup> For people will be lovers of self [narcissistic, self-focused], lovers of money [impelled by greed], boastful, arrogant, revilers, disobedient to parents, ungrateful, unholy *and* profane, <sup>3</sup> [and they will be] unloving [devoid of natural human affection, calloused and inhumane], irreconcilable, malicious gossips, devoid of self-control [intemperate, immoral], brutal, haters of good, <sup>4</sup> **traitors**, reckless, conceited, lovers of [sensual] pleasure rather than lovers of God, <sup>5</sup> holding to a form of [outward] godliness (religion), although they have denied its power [for their conduct nullifies their claim of faith]. Avoid such people *and* keep far away from them."

### **2 Timothy 3:1-5 AMP**

2. A betrayer is someone who divulges information in breach of confidence. It destroys trust. Have you ever betrayed someone else's trust with the hopes of negatively impacting someone? According to **Proverbs 25:9-10**, what happens when we do this?

"If you want to tell your friends about your own problems, tell them. But don't discuss what someone told you in private. **Whoever hears it will lose their respect for you and will never trust you again.**"

### **Proverbs 25:9-10 (Easy to Read version)**

3. Jesus was betrayed by those who were close to him, Peter and Judas (see scriptures below). Peter eventually went on to preach the gospel on the day of Pentecost and over three thousand people were saved. Judas died by suicide. When someone has betrayed you, how do you know who to restore in your life and who to release?

### **Peter...**

"And a servant-girl, seeing him as he sat in the firelight and looking intently at him, said, "This man was with Him too." <sup>57</sup> **But Peter denied it**, saying, "Woman, I do not know Him!" <sup>58</sup> A little later someone else saw him and said, "You are one of them too." But Peter said, "Man, I am not!" <sup>59</sup> After about an hour had passed, another man *began* to insist, "This man was with Him, for he is a Galilean too." <sup>60</sup> But Peter said, "Man, I do not know what you are talking about." Immediately, while he was still speaking, a rooster crowed. <sup>61</sup> The Lord turned and looked at Peter. And Peter

remembered the word of the Lord, how He had told him, "Before a rooster crows today, you will deny Me three times."

**Luke 22:56-61 (AMP)**

**Judas...**

"Now the betrayer had given them a sign, saying, "Whomever I kiss, He is the one; seize Him." <sup>49</sup> Immediately Judas went to Jesus and said, "Greetings (rejoice), Rabbi!" **And he kissed Him [in a deliberate act of betrayal].** <sup>50</sup> Jesus said to Judas, "Friend, do what you came for." Then they came and seized Jesus and arrested Him."

**Matthew 26:48-50 (AMP)**

4. Name one truth you found beneficial in your quest for a wholesome tongue on today.