

# “WHEN YOUR FAITHFUL FRIEND TURNS AGAINST YOU”

## Psalm 41

Pastor Keith E. Gephart

### INTRODUCTION

Treachery is a terrible sin and very difficult for a human to deal with. We might expect our enemies treat us badly and to attempt to do harm to us, but we do not expect those who pretend to be our friends and close companions to hurt us. Being betrayed by a close friend or family member may make us feel like we are all alone in the world and that no one understands us. But, we can also be “betrayed” by life’s circumstances. We have tried to do right and honor the Lord, but life’s problems pile up and devastate us! But as we can see from Psalm 41, there is someone who understands far better than we do – our Savior Jesus Christ.

### YOU HAVE NO BETTER FRIEND THAN JESUS—WHO FULLY UNDERSTANDS WHEN YOU ARE BETRAYED!

But, first let us examine the relationship between Jesus and the Psalmist, David, and how v. 9 can be quoted in Jn. 13:18 of Jesus’ betrayal by Judas.

- I. “BLESSED ARE THE MERCIFUL, FOR THEY SHALL OBTAIN MERCY (1-3)
  - A. The required behavior: “Give attention to—treat properly—the poor and needy.”
  - B. The requited behavior:
    1. Deliverance in the day of trouble (1)
    2. Protection [2]
    3. Keeping alive [2]
    4. Being called blessed and being blessed [not given over to enemy desires; 2]
    5. Sustaining him on his sickbed—lifting him up off of it [3]
    6. Turning, changing, all his bed—restoring him to full health [3]
  
- II. BUT, LORD, I HAVE NOT BEEN SHOWN MERCY! (4-10)

Note, that David begins (v. 4) and ends (v. 10) with a request for God’s grace!

  - A. I have sinned—heal my “soul.” (4)
  - B. **My enemies** speak evil against me (5-8)
    1. Flattery in my presence (6)
      - Speaking *emptiness, vanity, falsehood*
      - Gathering wickedness in the heart
      - Slandering with the tongue
    2. Secret slander, wishing the worst 7-8)
      - A “thing of Belial” is poured upon him (8)
      - He will never get well.
  - C. **My close friend** has turned against me (9)
    1. My “man of peace”
    2. One in whom I trusted
    3. One in close companionship and whom I sponsored and provided for

4. He “has lifted up his heel against me.”  
D. **You, Lord**, despite all they say, raise me up!

His promise to “repay” them seems out of place in the teachings of Scripture (v. 10); but it is fully in harmony with both David’s position as Theocratic leader and also with the teachings of both OT and NT—both of which teach merciful treatment of even one’s enemies and also proper retribution for wickedness.

- III. MY MAIN CONCERN IS MY RELATIONSHIP WITH YOU—RECEIVING YOUR MERCY, LORD (11-12)
- A. I desire you to be “pleased with me” and to show it
  - B. I desire you to “uphold me in my integrity”—**hold me tightly and hold me up!**
  - C. I desire you to “set me in your presence forever.”
- IV. MAY OUR MERCIFUL GOD BE PRAISED AND ADORED AS I CONCLUDE THIS FIRST BOOK OF PSALMS (13)
- From all times in the past, to all time in the future: by all his created beings: “from everlasting to everlasting.”
- Such is firmly established—and we must acknowledge it: “Amen, and Amen.”

But, a study of this psalm is incomplete without seeing how Christ applied v. 9 to Himself and how the disciples responded: **John 13:18-27**; Mt. 26:21ff.

#### CONCLUSION

How do you think our Lord felt when Judas betrayed him? You can only understand and respond properly to your own personal betrayals when you understand and are rightly related to your Lord who went through betrayal on your behalf.

The sad fact is we all have been guilty of betraying our Lord, and yet He loves us and is faithful toward us. He never leaves us nor forsakes us.

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