



March 12, 2017  
Psalm 41  
*"Hurt and Betrayed"*  
Pastor Gary Hamrick

If you've ever been hurt or betrayed by another person or if someone has ever gossiped about you, lied about you, or slandered you - welcome to the human race! In today's message, Pastor Gary will help us learn how to respond the way David did when he experienced mistreatment from others.

### Historical Background

1. David wrote about his personal experience when people had lied about him, slandered him, gossiped about him, and kicked him when he was down.
2. Pastor Gary said: "I don't want [us to have] a victim mentality, okay, lest any of us think we're as pure as the driven snow. The fact of the matter is all of us are probably guilty ourselves, at some point in our lives, either intentionally or unintentionally, of hurting someone by either what we've done or what we've said or how we've talked about them. So, there's plenty of blame to go around. [The] main point of this psalm is how to handle the hurt and betrayal of other people against [us]."
3. David was physically sick when he wrote this psalm.
  - a. **Psalm 41:3-4** - *"The LORD will sustain him on his sickbed and restore him from his bed of illness. I said, 'O LORD, have mercy on me; heal me, for I have sinned against you.'"*
4. David wasn't sick because he had sinned, although there are times when sin causes physical illness.

5. David was physically sick, so he needed the Lord's healing touch, plus he had sinned, so he needed the Lord's mercy.
6. People who were David's "enemies" used his illness as an opportunity to talk about him and "pile on."
7. **Psalm 41:5** - *"My enemies say of me in malice, 'When will he die and his name perish?'"*
8. What started out as lies, slander, and gossip, escalated to the point that people wished David was dead!
9. **Psalm 41:6** - *"Whenever one comes to see me, he speaks falsely [lies], while his heart gathers slander; then he goes out and spreads it abroad [gossip]."*
10. Lies - Slander - Gossip
  - a. Lies - Saying things that are untrue.
  - b. Slander - Making false statements or misrepresentations, which defame and damage someone's reputation.
  - c. Gossip - Repeating personal or sensitive information about someone.
  - d. Lies, slander, and gossip are sins, and there are many biblical references to these sins, including:
    - i. **Colossians 3:9** - *"Do not lie to each other, since you have taken off your old self with its practices..."*
    - ii. **1 Peter 2:1** - *"Therefore, rid yourselves of all malice and all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and slander of every kind."*
    - iii. **Proverbs 20:19** - *"A gossip betrays a confidence; so avoid a man [or a woman] who talks too much."*
11. **Psalm 41:7-8** - *"All my enemies whisper together against me; they imagine the worst for me, saying, 'A vile disease has beset him; he will never get up from the place where he lies.'"*
12. Pastor Gary said: "Even though it hurts, you would actually somewhat expect lies, slander, [and] gossip, and all of this kind of stuff, even, unfortunately, death wishes from people who hate your guts... That shouldn't surprise us. If people dislike you intensely it should not really surprise [you] that they might lie about [you], slander [you], gossip about [you], and perhaps... in their heart... they might wish [you] dead... But, you know what is worse than that? [It's] when it comes from somebody you thought was a friend... who love you and you loved them."

13. **Psalm 41:9** - *“Even my close friend, whom I trusted, he who shared my bread, has lifted up his heel against me.”*
- a. Jesus quoted this verse concerning Judas, the betrayer, at what is known as the Last Supper.
    - i. **John 13:18** - *“I am not referring to all of you; I know those I have chosen. But this is to fulfill the scripture: ‘He who shares my bread has lifted up his heel against me.’ ”*
    - ii. *“The kiss of the traitor wounded our Lord’s heart as much as the nail wounded his hand.”*<sup>1</sup>
14. Pastor Gary said: *“Betrayal from a close friend or a trusted spouse is one of the most painful things a person can experience. It is much easier to deal with the hurt and pain inflicted by someone who doesn’t like you, but when it comes from a close friend or a family member, it is excruciatingly painful.”*
15. Most Bible scholars believe Ahithophel was the *“close friend”* David referred to in Psalm 41 and Psalm 55.
- a. **Psalm 55:12-14** - *“If an enemy were insulting me, I could endure it; if a foe were raising himself against me, I could hide from him. But it is you [Ahithophel], a man like myself, my companion, my close friend, with whom I once enjoyed sweet fellowship as we walked with the throng at the house of God.”*
  - b. Ahithophel was a personal advisor and close friend of David’s.
    - i. **2 Samuel 16:23** - *“Now in those days the advice Ahithophel gave was like that of one who inquires of God. That was how both David and Absalom regarded all of Ahithophel’s advice.”*
  - c. Ahithophel joined a conspiracy with David’s son, Absalom, against David.
    - i. **2 Samuel 15:6** - *“... [Absalom] stole the hearts of the men of Israel.”*
    - ii. **2 Samuel 15:30-31** - *“But David continued up the Mount of Olives, weeping as he went; his head was covered and he was barefoot. All the people with him covered their heads too and were weeping as they went up. Now David had been told, ‘Ahithophel is among the conspirators with Absalom’ So David prayed, ‘O LORD, turn Ahithophel’s counsel into foolishness.’ ”*

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<sup>1</sup> *The Treasury of David*, by Charles Haddon Spurgeon.  
[https://books.google.com/books?id=DByUCwAAQBAJ&pg=PT1446&lpg=PT1446&dq=charles+spurgeon+the+kiss+of+the+traitor+wounded+our+lord's+heart+as+much+as+the+nail+wounded+his+hand&source=bl&ots=RbyoNKBGZm&sig=\\_9ddjUjOT7kdA2fZJv-T0kF3stE&hl=en&sa=X&ved=0ahUKEwjVi8n2m9vSAhXkrFQKHVF\\_BVoQ6AEIGjAA#v=onepage&q=charles%20spurgeon%20the%20kiss%20of%20the%20traitor%20wounded%20our%20lord's%20heart%20as%20much%20as%20the%20nail%20wounded%20his%20hand&f=false](https://books.google.com/books?id=DByUCwAAQBAJ&pg=PT1446&lpg=PT1446&dq=charles+spurgeon+the+kiss+of+the+traitor+wounded+our+lord's+heart+as+much+as+the+nail+wounded+his+hand&source=bl&ots=RbyoNKBGZm&sig=_9ddjUjOT7kdA2fZJv-T0kF3stE&hl=en&sa=X&ved=0ahUKEwjVi8n2m9vSAhXkrFQKHVF_BVoQ6AEIGjAA#v=onepage&q=charles%20spurgeon%20the%20kiss%20of%20the%20traitor%20wounded%20our%20lord's%20heart%20as%20much%20as%20the%20nail%20wounded%20his%20hand&f=false)

## How To Respond To Hurt And Betrayal - Pray For Mercy

16. **Psalm 41:10** - *"But you, O LORD, have mercy on me..."*
17. Mercy is the aspect of God's love that causes him to help the miserable.<sup>2</sup>
18. David also wrote about praying for mercy in other psalms, including:
  - a. **Psalm 86:6** - *"Hear my prayer, O LORD; listen to my cry for mercy."*
  - b. **Psalm 116:1** - *"I love the LORD, for he heard my voice; he heard my cry for mercy."*
19. Mercy is one of the essential characteristics of God.
  - a. **Ephesians 2:4** - *"... God, who is rich in mercy..."*
  - b. **James 5:11c** - *"The LORD is full of compassion and mercy."*
20. **Matthew 5:7** - Jesus said, *"Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy."*
21. Pastor Gary said: "Forgiveness is absolutely essential, is absolutely essential for your healing whenever you've been wronged. I didn't say it was easy. It's not easy, but it is essential. Unforgiveness has made prisoners of free people... When you hold onto unforgiveness, you become captive to that, and it is bondage and it is heavy... If you forgive someone that does not mean what [he or she] did to you was okay. Sometimes people mistakenly think that if they forgive someone [that] somehow means that the offense was no big deal. And so the one offended holds onto the offense, so that the weight of the offense will never [go away]. All the while, you're slowly dying, crushed by the weight of unforgiveness... [The] way to be free is to forgive."

## How To Respond To Hurt And Betrayal - Don't Retaliate

22. **Psalm 41:10** - *"... raise me up, that I may repay them."*
23. Pastor Gary said: "There is a difference between raw emotion and right theology, and David [was] expressing raw emotion... Everything you read in the Bible is not necessarily true... Sometimes the Bible quotes dumb things that people say [or do]!"
  - a. Pastor Gary referred to Noah getting drunk and naked, David dancing in his undergarments, and the disciples' request to call down fire from

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<sup>2</sup> Paraphrase for the definition of mercy; Nelson's Bible Dictionary.

heaven to kill Samaritans, as examples of things that happened that aren't a pattern for us to live by!

24. [Romans 12:19](#) - *"Do not take revenge, my friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: 'It is mine to avenge; I will repay,' says the Lord."*
25. Pastor Gary said: "God reserves the exclusive right to deal with the ones who have wronged or offended us. As much as we want to retaliate or get even or make somebody pay for what they did, God says, 'Vengeance is mine.' It's not ours; it's Gods."
26. [Psalm 103:10](#) - *"[God] does not treat us as our sins deserve or repay us according to our iniquities."*

#### How To Respond To Hurt And Betrayal - Walk With Integrity

27. [Psalm 41:12](#) - *"In my integrity you uphold me and set me in your presence forever."*
28. Pastor Gary said: "When someone wrongs you, lies to you, slanders you, gossips about you, betrays you, be the bigger person. Walk with integrity. Rise up above the insults, lies, and gossip of other people. Don't stoop to their level or get caught up in their game, take the high road... It's amazing how when you are doing what is right and pleasing to [God, that] God will take care of you, and God will tell the true story, and God will reveal the real picture. You don't have to run around defending yourself. Take the high road. Keep your head high and walk with integrity, and allow God to defend you, and he will. "

#### Discussion Questions

1. Review the introduction to the study guide with your group to provide the appropriate background.
2. Read [Psalm 41](#) to provide the foundation for this study.
3. Read and discuss Pastor Gary's comments about lies, slander, and gossip. (See #10 above)
4. Allow the people in your group to share their experiences about times when others mistreated them.

5. Provide a brief summary of Pastor Gary's comments about Ahithophel and his involvement with Absalom's conspiracy. (This message is in the Teaching Library - 17:20 to 21:50 - [http://cornerstonechapel.net/?page\\_id=418&i=1185](http://cornerstonechapel.net/?page_id=418&i=1185))
6. How has the Lord defended you in these situations?
7. How has the Lord extended mercy to you in answer to prayer?
8. Spend time talking about Pastor Gary's comments on forgiveness. (See #21 above)
9. Share experiences about times when you've allowed raw emotion to influence your words and actions in response to being mistreated by others.
10. How have you avoided the temptation to retaliate when someone has mistreated you?
11. Read and discuss [Romans 12:19](#).
12. Read and discuss Pastor Gary's comments about walking with integrity. (See #28 above)
13. Spend time talking about Pastor Gary's comments about David's sin with Bathsheba and its effect on Ahithophel. (35:10 to 37:40)
14. Close your time in prayer as the Holy Spirit leads.

\* Unless noted, all Scriptures quoted are from the New International Version (NIV 1984).