

## **Ides of March: A Historical and Biblical Perspective on Betrayal**

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***Proverbs 25:19- “Confidence in an unfaithful man in time of trouble is like a bad tooth and a foot out of joint.”***

***\*\*\*In a Bible Study setting, open with discussion of personal examples of betrayal.***

1. Historical Background of Ides of March
  - a. “Ides” is derivative from Latin “Idus”, meaning “divider” or “midpoint”
  - b. In antiquity, associated with the full moon, and in Roman mythology, associated with Jupiter (Ides) and Mars (March), the festivals of the day celebrated in a debauched way as per Roman holiday custom
  - c. Julius Caesar, Emperor of Rome, was assassinated on this day (March 15, 44 BC) by many Roman officials, but the greatest blow to him was the involvement of Brutus, a trusted friend and adviser, “Et tu, Brute?”
2. Point of Application: Betrayal in the Bible
  - a. Psalm 41:9, Matthew 26:14-16,20-25, Judas Iscariot, of Jesus Christ
  - b. 2 Samuel 15:10-12; Psalm 55:12-14, Ahithophel, of King David
  - c. Judges 16:18-21, Delilah, of Samson her husband
  - d. Micah 7:6, Close Family Members
  - e. Zechariah 13:6 applied, Church People
  - f. Jeremiah 9:4, People in General
3. Point of Application: How to Deal with Betrayal the Bible Way
  - a. What to do when someone betrays you
    - i. Forgive as per Colossians 3:13 (not necessarily forget, but in many cases total forgiveness is tantamount to this, Cf. Isaiah 43:25)
    - ii. Not return evil for evil in similar or other form of retribution, as Joseph exemplified (Genesis 50:15-21)
  - b. Lesson for self, Don’t betray other people!
    - i. For every betrayal there is the betrayed and the betrayer, you have been the latter before (surely all have violated the First Commandment in the Decalogue and failed there, but only the most exceptional have not betrayed another person in a significant way in the lifetime, what of the 8<sup>th</sup> Commandment as defined in the Sermon on the Mount?), Exodus 20:3,14; Matthew 5:27-28
4. Final Point of Application: Jesus Will Never Betray You
  - a. Proverbs 20:6, 17:17, 18:24, His Constancy, 2 Timothy 2:11-13
  - b. He has proven this by His conduct (Romans 5:8)