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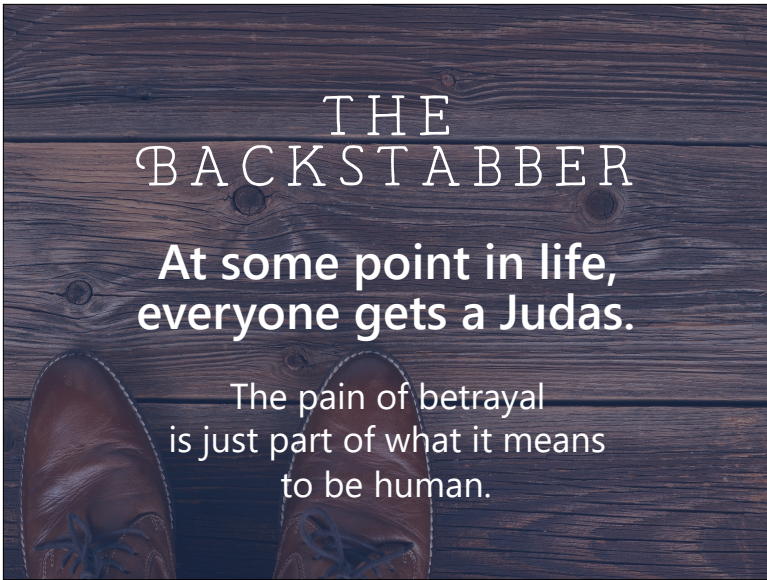
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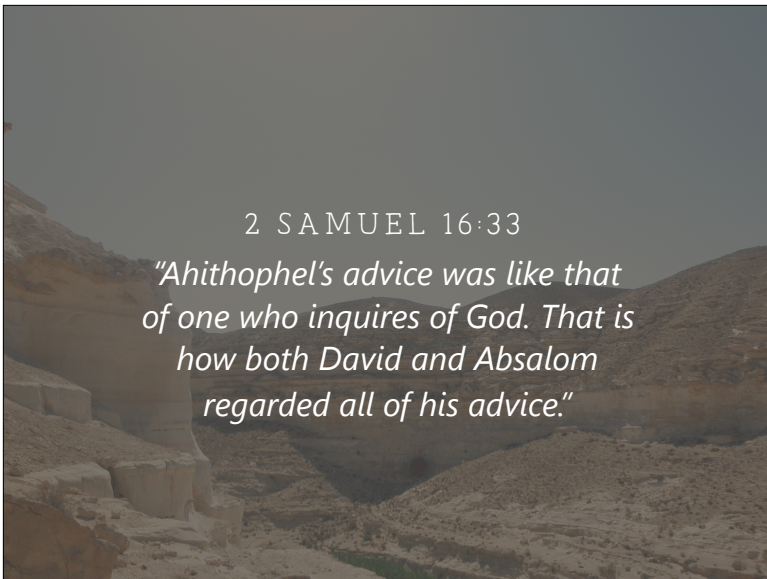
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2 SAMUEL 15:10-14

*Absalom sent secret messengers to Israel's tribal leaders saying, "When you hear the sound of the trumpets, say, 'Absalom is king in Hebron.'" Two hundred men from Jerusalem accompanied Absalom, but knew nothing of the plot. While he was offering sacrifices, Absalom also sent for Ahithophel the Gilonite, David's counselor.*

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2 SAMUEL 15:10-14

*So the conspiracy gained strength, and Absalom's following increased. A messenger came David to saying, "The hearts of Israel are with Absalom." Then David said to all his officials who were with him in Jerusalem, "We must flee immediately, or none of us will escape. Absalom will move quickly to put the city to the sword."*

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2 SAMUEL 15:30-31

*David fled barefoot, his head covered, weeping as he went. All the people covered their heads too and wept as they went. Then David was told, "Ahithophel is one of the conspirators with Absalom." So David prayed, "O Lord, turn Ahithophel's counsel into foolishness."*

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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, 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."*

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PSALM 55:20-21

*"My companion attacks his friends; he violates his covenant. His speech is smooth as butter, yet war is in his heart; his words are more soothing than oil, yet they are drawn swords."*

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## UNDERSTANDING THE UNDERHANDED

### **Backstabbers act out of selfishness.**

What they do is done to make themselves feel better, or bigger, or more beautiful.

Backstabbers tend to be zero-sum players: the only way they win is if I lose.

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UNDERSTANDING THE UNDERHANDED

**Backstabbers act out of poor self-esteem.**

They feel bad about their own inadequacies.

Backstabbers don't have healthy ways to deal with their pain, so it comes out in hurtful ways toward me.

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UNDERSTANDING THE UNDERHANDED

**Backstabbers act out of a sense of powerlessness.**

They believe they've gotten a raw deal in life.

Backstabbers are mad, and they are not going to take it anymore! Someone needs to pay—me.

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HELPING THE HURTFUL

① **Consider the Backstabber within.**

No one is innocent of betrayal at some level. For sure, every believer has betrayed the Lord at some point—including me.

*"Forgive each other, just as in Christ God forgave you."*

EPHESIANS 4:32

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# David the Betrayer

*"Put Uriah in the front line where the fighting is fiercest. Then withdraw from him so he will die."*

2 SAMUEL 11:5

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## HELPING THE HURTFUL

2

### Control the urge to withdraw.

The pain of betrayal leads me to retreat into a protective shell; I no longer want to trust, be vulnerable, open up to God, or stay active in my church.

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*"Oh, that I had the wings of a dove! I would fly away and be at rest—I would flee far away and stay in the desert; I would hurry to my place of shelter, far from the tempest and storm."*

PSALM 55:6-8

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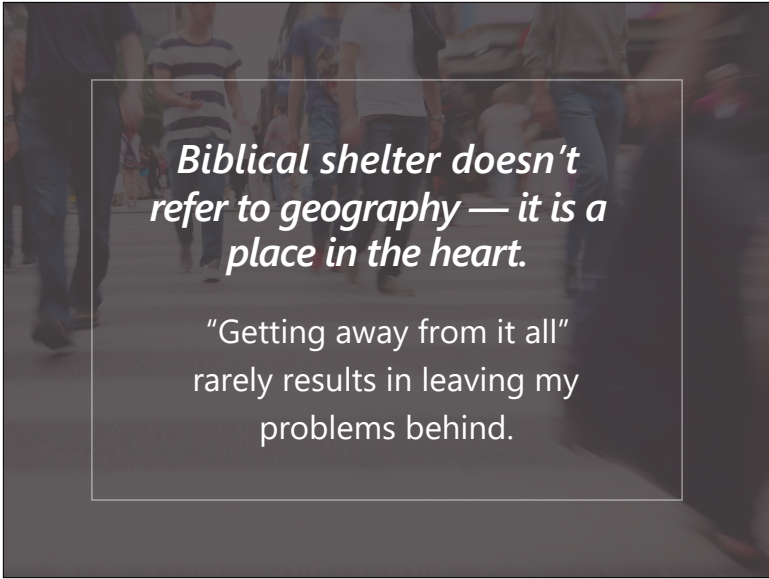
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*Biblical shelter doesn't refer to geography — it is a place in the heart.*

*"Getting away from it all" rarely results in leaving my problems behind.*

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## *Best Practice for Betrayal*

*"But I call to God, and he saves me. Evening, morning and noon I cry out in distress, and he hears my voice... Cast your cares on the LORD and he will sustain you; he will never let the righteous fall."*

PSALM 55:16-17, 22

*"But the Lord stood at my side and gave me strength."*

2 TIMOTHY 4:16

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HELPING THE  
HURTFUL

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## **Cultivate a rear guard**

Betrayal is so emotionally and spiritually depleting that I need another person who will be my armor bearer.

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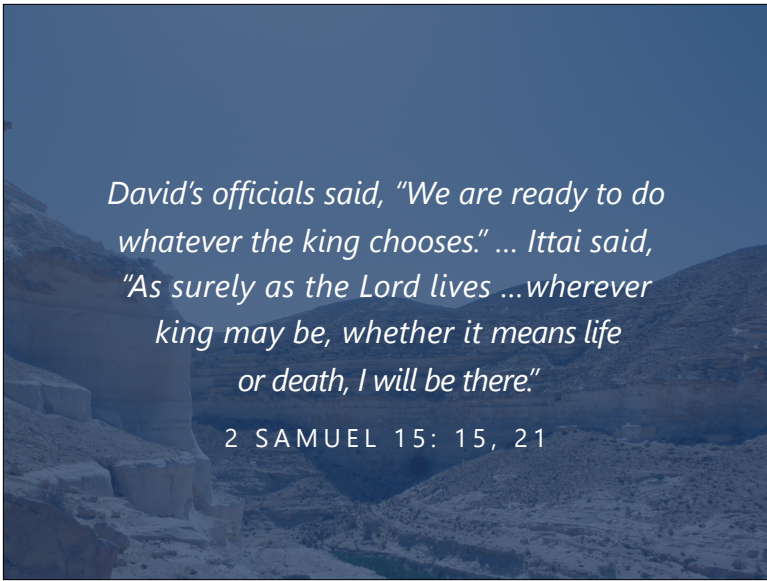
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*David's officials said, "We are ready to do whatever the king chooses." ... Ittai said, "As surely as the Lord lives ...wherever king may be, whether it means life or death, I will be there."*

2 SAMUEL 15: 15, 21

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## RAISING UP YOUR REAR GUARD

— STEP 1 —

**Ask God to give a protective friend.**

— STEP 2 —

**Be a protective friend to others.**

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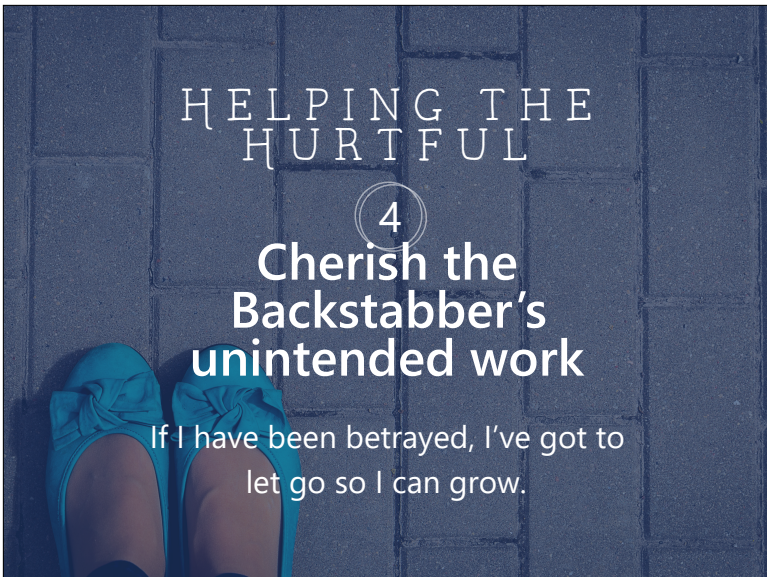
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## HELPING THE HURTFUL

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**Cherish the Backstabber's unintended work**

If I have been betrayed, I've got to let go so I can grow.

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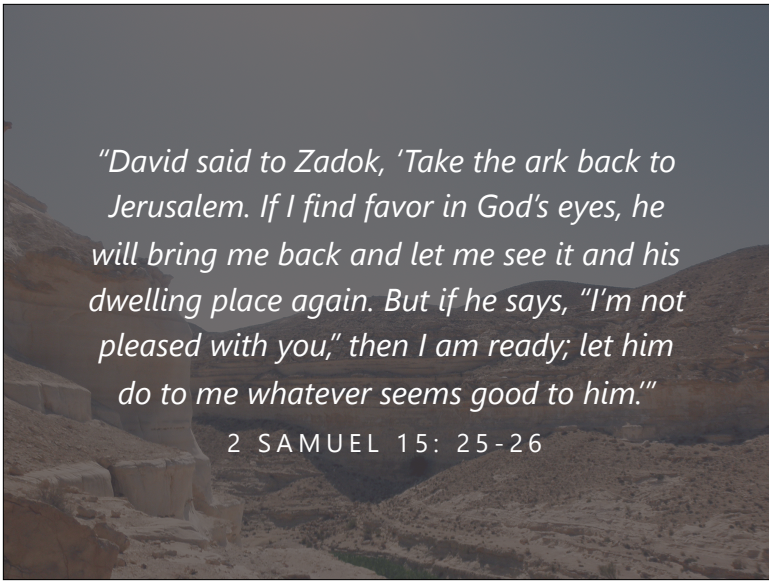
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*"David said to Zadok, 'Take the ark back to Jerusalem. If I find favor in God's eyes, he will bring me back and let me see it and his dwelling place again. But if he says, "I'm not pleased with you," then I am ready; let him do to me whatever seems good to him."*

2 SAMUEL 15: 25-26

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## Spiritual Surgery from the Backstabber's Knife.

*"I bear willing witness that I owe more to the fire, the hammer and the file than to anything else in the Lord's workshop."*

CHARLES SPURGEON

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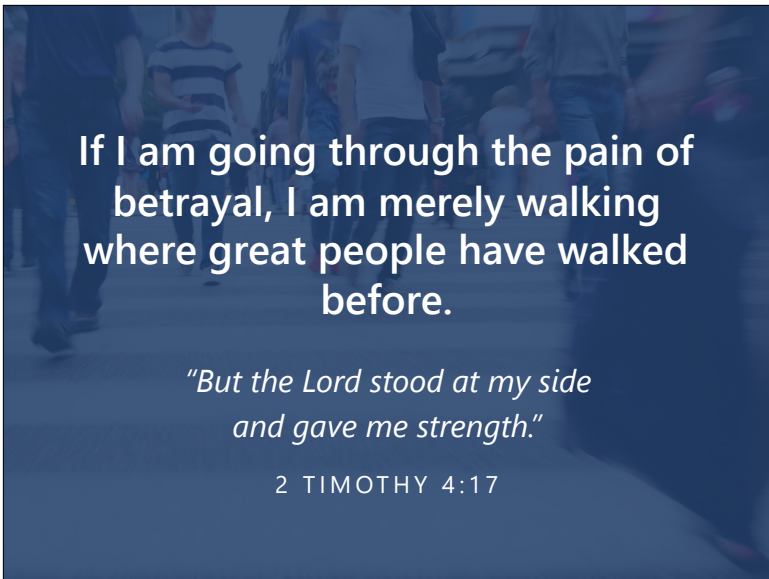
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**If I am going through the pain of betrayal, I am merely walking where great people have walked before.**

*"But the Lord stood at my side and gave me strength."*

2 TIMOTHY 4:17

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# EXTRA

GRACE REQUIRED



PART 8 The Backstabber

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