


casting your cares

A silhouette of a person walking on a large rock at sunset, with another person jumping in the air behind them. The sun is low on the horizon, creating a warm, golden glow. The background shows a landscape with hills and a body of water.

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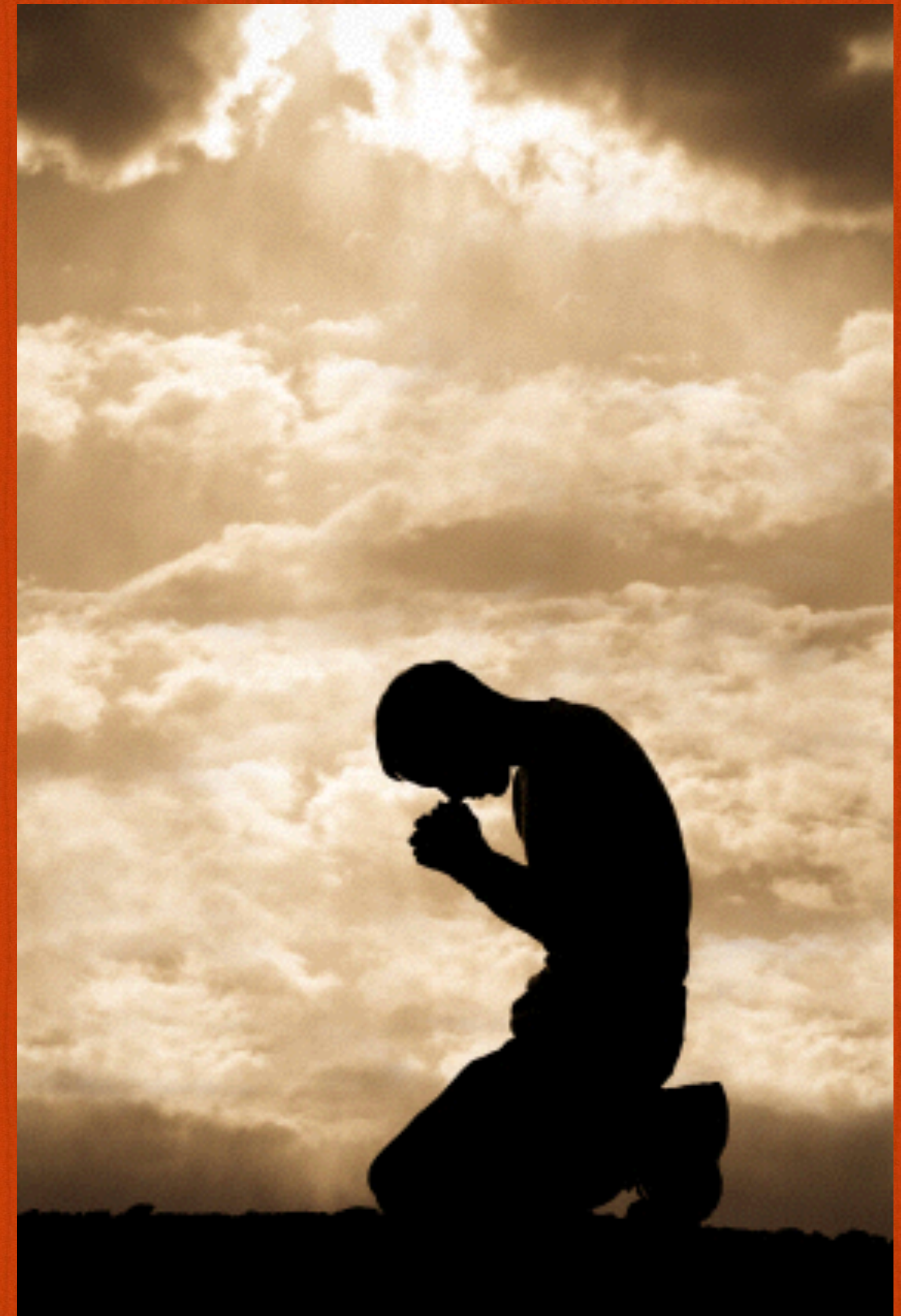
- Many of our heavy burdens are caused by hurt from loved ones. *Matt. 24:10 And then shall many be offended, and shall betray one another, and shall hate one another.*
- When people that are close to us hurt us, it can cause us to carry anxiety and stress when trying to deal with the pain. *Psa. 55:12 For it was not an enemy that reproached me; then I could have borne it: neither was it he that hated me that did magnify himself against me; then I would have hid myself from him:*
- Many times, the enemy will use those close to us to harm us so that we will stop trusting people. Distrust causes us to exhibit callous behavior. *Prov. 18:24 A man that hath friends must shew himself friendly: and there is a friend that sticketh closer than a brother.*





- **Because God cares so much for us, He will always show us who our enemies really are. Even when they claim to love us, God will always reveal their true motives to us. *Matt. 26:23 And he answered and said, He that dippeth his hand with me in the dish, the same shall betray me.***
- **Even if we feel that they will hurt us, we need to give people a chance. When we give people chances in spite of our past hurts we are extending grace and true love. *Luke 6:27 But I say unto you which hear, Love your enemies, do good to them which hate you,***
- **We should do good to them, even at the risk of betrayal. We should never seek revenge for those that hurt us but we should allow our good to repay them. *Lev. 19:18 Thou shalt not avenge, nor bear any grudge against the children of thy people, but thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself: I am the LORD.***

- **Blessing people that curse us is hard sometimes, but it's the only way to cast aside the negative emotions that occur when people curse us. *Luke 6:28 Bless them that curse you, and pray for them which despitefully use you.***
- **We should pray for people that betray us. Most of the time, when we do good to people, they turn on us because they have not been doing good themselves. This is the reason that we must pray for them. *Luke 22:31-32 And the Lord said, Simon, Simon, behold, Satan hath desired to have you, that he may sift you as wheat: But I have prayed for thee, that thy faith fail not: and when thou art converted, strengthen thy brethren.***
- **When we pray for those that hurt us, our pain goes to God. He takes it and carries it for us. *Matt. 11:28 Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.***



SUMMARY



One of the hardest things to handle as a believer is betrayal. When people close to you misuse you, hurt you, or curse you, it can be overwhelming to deal with. It can also be very hard to give our offenses to God because our first reaction is usually retaliation. However, we must follow the biblical formula for dealing with offenses. If we do not obey God's way of handling these situations, we will find ourselves retreating into our own feelings and distrusting others. Distrust and reclusive behavior will cause us to repel good people from our lives so there is little opportunity for mentorship and growth. Isolation stunts our spiritual growth and causes us to be angry within ourselves. Our displeasure with ourselves will only cause us to lash out and hurt others just like we were hurt.

We must love people in spite of how they hurt us. We must give people a chance even though we may see betrayal coming. We must let it play out and trust God to help us deal with the pain. If we do not hold our peace and let the Lord fight our battles, we may prematurely judge situations and people. Rash judgment can cause us to sabotage good situations for fear of being hurt. We must let God be the judge and allow Him to avenge us. We should sincerely pray for those that hurt us and allow God to carry the weight of the pain.

Rom. 12:19 Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath: for it is written, Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord.

Rom. 12:20 Therefore if thine enemy hunger, feed him; if he thirst, give him drink: for in so doing thou shalt heap coals of fire on his head.

Rom. 12:21 Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good.