



*HOW A DISCIPLE DEALS WITH DISAPPOINTMENT:
HANDLING NEGATIVE COMMENTS,
COMPLAINTS & CRITICISM*

Summer Series Lesson by Ray Reynolds at Robertsdale Church of Christ (June 6, 2018)

Introduction: One of the major drawbacks in Christian living is facing negative comments, complaints, and criticism (**Matthew 5:9-12**). Some of the most hurtful people you will encounter are those who claim to be children of God. We often have to encounter difficult people who frustrate us and discourage us. Consider a few Bible characters:

- Who was Korah? (**Numbers 16**)
- Who was Jezebel? (**I Kings 16- II Kings 9**)
- Who was Sanballat, Tobiah, and Geshom? (**Nehemiah 2:19-20, 4:7-9, 6:1**)
- Who was Pashur? (**Jeremiah 20-21, Jeremiah 38:1-6**)
- Who was Alexander the Coppersmith? (**I Timothy 1:20, II Timothy 2:17-18, 4:14**)
- Who was Diotrephes? (**II John 9-11**)

Each of these Bible characters hindered, discouraged, and disappointed great men and women of God. However, Moses, Aaron, Elijah, Elisha, the prophets, Nehemiah, Ezra, Esther, Jeremiah, Baruch, Paul, John, and the New Testament churches survived their attacks. They were able to overcome their trials and handle the disappointment. What can we learn?

Discussion:

1) TAKE IT TO GOD IN PRAYER

Psalm 5:3, Ephesians 4:26, James 1:5

NOTES:

2) *TRY TO STAY LEVEL HEADED*

Ecclesiastes 3:1-8, Matthew 5:9, II Thessalonians 3:16

NOTES:

3) *TRANSFORM YOUR MIND*

Romans 12:1-2, Philippians 2:5-7, Philippians 4:8-9

NOTES:

4) *THINK OF IT AS A LEARNING EXPERIENCE*

Matthew 18:15-17, Romans 3:23, Romans 5:8

NOTES:

5) *TURN IT OVER TO GOD*

Psalm 46:10, Matthew 11:28-30, I Peter 5:7

NOTES:

Conclusion: Before we close, I want to share a story with you about learning to overcome. I also want to encourage you to let God's word speak to you! The wisdom of the Proverbs can help.

- Proverbs 12:15 = *The way of fools seems right to them, but the wise listen to advice.*
- Proverbs 14:12 = *There is a way that appears to be right, but in the end it leads to death.*
- Proverbs 16:2 = *All a person's ways seem pure to them, but motives are weighed by the LORD.*
- Proverbs 16:25 = *There is a way that appears to be right, but in the end it leads to death.*
- Proverbs 19:20 = *Listen to advice, accept discipline & at the end you will be counted among the wise.*
- Proverbs 21:2 = *A person may think their own ways are right, but the LORD weighs the heart.*

I don't know what you are struggling with right now, or what/who is discouraging you, but God gives us these stories to help us see that we can overcome! I hope you don't have to deal with Korah, Jezebel, Sanballat, Tobiah, Geshom, Pashur, Alexander the Coppersmith, Diotrephes or other difficult people but chances are if you haven't met them... you will. When you do you'll have to decide how to handle it. Change the way you look at things. Above all remember that Satan is your enemy (John 8:44, Ephesians 6:10-12, James 4:7, I Peter 5:8)! Don't let him discourage you. We have the victory in Christ Jesus!