

Encouragement

Major characters in the New Testament often were disappointed by those close to them.

Examples:

- Jesus (Luke 19:41)
- Paul (churches of Galatia, Mark, Demas)

Yet they continued to form close personal relationships.

Encouragement

1. Think about good stuff (Philippians 4:4 – 9)
 - a. Disappointments are plentiful. Move on.
 - b. Dwell on the good stuff.
 - c. 1 Thessalonians 5:21
 - d. What percentage of the population is faithful at any one time?
 - e. The system was made such that we must focus on the small part.

Encouragement

2. Connect with faithful people
 - a. 1 Thessalonians 1 – 3 (especially 3:1 – 3, 2:17)
 - b. Even faithful people will disappoint, but the chances of good are higher.
 - c. Be addicted to fellowship.

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3. Expect joy (Acts 20:17 – 38, especially 24)
 - a. “Finish my race with joy” This life was designed to be dominated by joy.
 - b. Paul knew that his audience (the elders) were going to cause division, but he did not give up on them (29 – 30).
 - c. Despite the prospect of future problems, they were still very close (36 – 38).

Encouragement

4. Pray for faithful people
 - a. Pray for those whom you lead (Philippians 1:4, Colossians 1:11, 3 John 2)
 - b. Ask others to pray for you (Colossians 4:3 – 4, Ephesians 6:18 – 20, Romans 15:30)

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5. Visit
 - a. 2 John 13, 3 John 12
 - b. Romans 1:9 – 12
 - c. Face-to-face is better
6. Look at the bright side
 - a. 2 Corinthians 2:3
 - b. Galatians 5:10
7. Boast about them
 - a. 2 Corinthians 7:4, 16
 - b. 1 John 1:4