

# SOMEBODY

## “You Know That I Could Use Somebody.”

*Psalm 55:1-14 (ESV)*

<sup>1</sup> Give ear to my prayer, O God,  
and hide not yourself from my plea for mercy!

<sup>2</sup> Attend to me, and answer me;

I am restless in my complaint and I moan,  
<sup>3</sup> because of the noise of the enemy,  
because of the oppression of the wicked.

For they drop trouble upon me,  
and in anger they bear a grudge against me.

<sup>4</sup> My heart is in anguish within me;  
the terrors of death have fallen upon me.

<sup>5</sup> Fear and trembling come upon me,  
and horror overwhelms me.

<sup>12</sup> For it is not an enemy who taunts me—  
then I could bear it;  
it is not an adversary who deals insolently with me—  
then I could hide from him.

<sup>13</sup> But it is you, a man, my equal,  
my companion, my familiar friend.

<sup>14</sup> We used to take sweet counsel together;  
within God's house we walked in the throng.”

### “Eternal Ache”

II Samuel 14: 33 (ESV) “Then Joab went to the king and told him, and he summoned Absalom. So he came to the king and bowed himself on his face to the ground before the king, and the king kissed Absalom.”

II Samuel 15:6 (ESV) “Thus Absalom did to all of Israel who came to the king for judgment. So Absalom stole the hearts of the men of Israel.”

**Reconciliation at times cannot be rushed,  
but it should never be shelved.**

Psalm 43:1 “Vindicate me, O God, and defend my cause against an ungodly people, from the deceitful and unjust man deliver me!”

Vindicate = [Shaphat] - Champion, Defender, Advocate, Judge

Somebody Series / week 3

Pastor Scott Stevens

August 20-21, 2011

Betrayed?

- Continue to carry it.
- Plot and determine your vengeance.
- Ask God to be your [Shaphat] and release it.

Betrayer?

- Lust that led to a rape, a rape that led to vengeance, vengeance carried out in murder; through it all silence which led to a betrayal. Is it time to break your silence and seek reconciliation?

### Small Group Questions

1. Have someone read Psalm 55 in its entirety. Do you feel the betrayal in David's words?
2. Tough question to start with... (So, maybe your group should play a round of “duck, duck, goose” to break the ice).... Have you ever been betrayed by a friend or family member? Do you care to share?
3. Have you ever had a [Shaphat] in your life (someone that championed your cause, defended you, or was your vindicator)? Tell us about him or her. Have you ever thought through the concept of God as your [Shaphat]? Why could that be challenging?
4. Something to consider. God expects our “all.” He challenges us to pick up and carry His cross. In some way when we withhold our “all” are we not betraying Him? Is there an area of your life that is “hands off” to God, an area where you remain the controller?

### Recommended Reading:

Eugene H. Peterson, *Leap Over a Wall—Earthly Spirituality for Everyday Christians*. San Francisco: Harper Collins, 1997.

Tremper Longman, *How to Read the Psalms*. Downers Grove: IVP, 1988.