Apply The Word

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Message Info

Title:

The Never Abandoned

One

Speaker:

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Date:

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Scriptures:

1 Samuel 26-31

Theme: Be at peace because God never abandons his holy one.

Introduction: Before David was king of Israel, an Amalekite had an Egyptian slave who he took along to war. When the slave grew ill, his master abandoned him. David, too, may have felt abandoned during his trials and sufferings at the hands of Saul. That feeling of abandonment is terrible—it's basically being left for dead. Yet in the midst of abandonment, God's people know that we are never truly alone.

Here are 4 situations where David learns to trust God amidst abandonment:

1. When his life is on the line (26-27)

Saul comes out to hunt David in the woods again. This time, David again resists the opportunity to kill Saul himself.

David goes to Achish, King of Gath. He is basically in exile, with no timeline for when he might return to Israel.

2. When he faces an impossible dilemma (28-29)

David faced a dilemma. He was being called to join the Philistines in war against his own people. Should he jeopardize his own life (and that of his men) by refusing, or fight against God's people?

We know from David's past that he would likely have refused to harm Israel. But in the end, the Lord delivered him by raising up the Philistine lords to oppose him. Saul, too, faced a dilemma. The Lord was not answering him. But instead of repenting, he turned to a medium, in rebellion against God.

3. When he loses everything (30)

Upon his return home, David finds that the Amalekites had made a raid against his city and taken everything: wives, children, and livestock.

Everyone is greatly distressed, and the people blame David. His life is in jeopardy. At this point, David encounters the Egyptian slave, who leads him to the Amalekites. There, David & co. defeat them and recover everything they'd lost.

4. When he does not know God's plan

While David is fighting the Amalekites, Saul is fighting the Philistines. It goes badly, and Saul's entire household is destroyed.

David doesn't know that yet. It's not until 3 days later that he learns how dramatically his life will be changed.

Questions:

- 1. Do you ever feel abandoned by God? What does it mean to trust him in the midst of that feeling?
- 2. How can you cultivate confidence in God so that you trust him always?

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