

WHEN YOU FEEL LIKE GOD HAS ABANDONED YOU (Psalm 13)

Psalm 13----- To the Chief Musician. A Psalm of David.

How long, O LORD? Will You forget me forever? How long will You hide Your face from me? ² How long shall I take counsel in my soul, Having sorrow in my heart daily? How long will my enemy be exalted over me? ³ Consider and hear me, O LORD my God; **Enlighten my** eyes, Lest I sleep the sleep of death...

The Chinese filmmaker Yuchao Feng believes that his 2019 short film entitled *Pearl* can help heal the wounds of the past, not only for his own family, but for many other families who have suffered the scourge of child abandonment.

His film is set in the **fishing village** in Fujian, China where Feng's mother grew up as a little girl. His grandmother, a poor widow, abandons **his mother** at the age of six to seek a better life with her son. His mother's already difficult life goes from bad to worse—she must now care for her elderly grandmother with dementia who is unable to care for herself.

Even today, a half-century later, child abandonment is widespread among China's 288 million migrant workers. According to a 2017 report by UNICEF (the United Nations Children's Fund), there are an estimated 61 million children worldwide who have been abandoned.

The film's producer, Clifford Miu, spoke regarding the painful issue of child abandonment:

"Someone close to me was a victim of abandonment at a young age, so the story hit me hard ... I could empathize with the young character's suffering ... Abandonment is a universal subject. Everyone has at some point felt abandoned or suffered the grim regret of being responsible for abandoning something [or someone] ... Yuchao had a personal stake in the story, and knowing that this film helped strengthen the relationship between him and his mother was something I found unusual and deeply moving."

- **Never abandoned**... blessed!
- Even if you have not on a human level, it's quite possible...
- There are times when it **SEEMS** God has forsaken us...no longer cares.
- This happened to David

Title: When You Feel Like God Has Abandoned You

(Prayer)

Julian Lennon, the son of Beatle John Lennon, was abandoned by his father at the age of five. Over 20 years ago in 1998, he spoke the following words:

I felt he was a hypocrite. Dad could talk about peace and love out loud to the world, but he could never show it to the people who supposedly meant the most to him: his wife and son. How can you talk about peace and love and have a family in bits and pieces?

- Abandonment by a parent is an awful experience.
- Thankfully, we have God's promise that He will **never** abandon us!
- But!!!!!!! What do you do when you **feel** as if God has abandoned you?

1. **When you feel abandoned by God, it is time to pour out your heart in prayer (13:1)**

How long, O LORD? Will You forget me forever? How long will You hide Your face from me?

- David's problems...long time...no answers to his prayers.
- "How long?" (4X) in vv. 1-2.
- "Will You forget me **forever**?"
- "How long will You hide Your face from me?"
- Time for you to pray!

2. **When you feel like you are ready to go crazy, it is time to pray like crazy (13:2)**

Notice David's frustration...tries...nothing changes:

² How long shall I take counsel in my soul, Having sorrow in my heart daily? How long will my enemy be exalted over me?

- David "takes counsel" trying to figure a way out, but nothing.
- "...sorrow in my heart daily" inner pain killing him (enemies)
- Do you ever feel like that? (physically, etc.)
- Whenever you are at the end of your rope, tie a knot, hang on, and pray like crazy. That is what David did, and that is what we need to do. The Bible says:

Psalm 55:22-----Cast your burden on the LORD, And He shall sustain you; He shall never permit the righteous to be moved.

Let me ask you a question...

What burden do you need to cast on the Lord (and to keep casting on Him until He comes to your rescue)?

- Marriage problems?
- Financial issues?
- Problems with your kids?
- Stuck in a job that you hate?
- Loneliness?

When you feel like you are ready to go crazy, it is time to pray like crazy!

3. **If we fail to pray to God like we should, we might see things go from bad to worse** (13:3-6)

David begged God to hear him because he knew without God's intervention, the horrible situation he was in could get even worse. Notice v. 3:

³ Consider and hear me, O LORD my God; Enlighten my eyes, Lest I sleep **the sleep of death**;

“Lord, if You don't answer me, I going to die.”

Folks, if there was ever a time we need to pray like David prayed, it is now.

* * *

In June of 1992, **Jim Davidson and Mike Price climbed Mt. Ranier**. On the way down from the summit, the two climbers fell 80 feet through a snow bridge **into a glacial crevasse**, a pitch-black, ice-walled crack in the massive glaciers that cover Mt. Ranier. Mike Price died.

In his book *The Ledge*, Jim Davidson tells the story of his miraculous survival and courageous climb out of the crevasse. Throughout the book, Jim reflects back to his childhood and young adult years, describing his relationship with his father.

As early as Jim can remember, his father had shown what some considered an almost reckless confidence in his son. Jim worked for his father painting high, steep-pitched roofs and electrical towers as early as age 12. The work terrified his mother, but Jim's father kept communicating his belief that Jim could accomplish great things if he pressed through adversity and kept going.

As Jim stood, bloodied and bruised, on the two-foot wide snow ledge next to the body of his climbing partner, he heard the voice of his father. The years of inspiration that Jim's father had invested in him flooded back into his mind and washed over him with encouragement.

With minimal gear and no experience in ice climbing at that level, Jim spent the next five hours climbing out, battling fatigue and the crumbling ice and snow that threatened to bury him. Throughout his ordeal, **Jim kept recalling the words of his father**. Five grueling hours later, thanks to his father's words, Jim climbed out of the crevasse to safety.

And my friends, **when you feel like God has abandoned you**, when you feel like nothing will ever change for the better, you need to be like Jim Davidson, and keep recalling the words of your Father.

Pour out your heart to Him in prayer and never, ever, forget the promise that he has made to you:

“I will **never** leave you nor forsake you!”

(Invitation)

John 6:40-----⁴⁰ And this is the will of Him who sent Me, that everyone who sees the Son and believes in Him may have everlasting life; and I will raise him up at the last day.”