

DAY 12 – *January 24*

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Do Not Forsake Me

Key Verse: Matthew 27:46

About three in the afternoon Jesus cried out in a loud voice, “Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?” (which means “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?”) Matthew 27:46 (NIV)

No one wants to be alone. Worse yet is to be abandoned by those closest to us, the ones we love and trust the deepest. Most of us have experienced moments when it feels like the people, we need the most aren't there for us. We were made to be in relationship with each other. More importantly, we were made to be in relationship with God. But what do you do when you feel like even God has abandoned you? When you can't feel God's presence?

Jesus experienced this during the crucifixion. Jesus has been in the presence of God from before time began. Jesus is God. He and the Father are inseparable. Yet, at the height of the crucifixion, a moment when he needed God the most, Jesus cried out, asking why God had forsaken him. In the midst of immense suffering, Jesus could not feel the presence of God. Mercifully for Jesus, this was short lived. He soon was taken to be in glory, once again and for all eternity in the presence of God.

What should you do when you feel forsaken by God? Perhaps you are going through a difficult relationship, illness, job insecurity or loss. Maybe you feel like you haven't heard from God in a while. Remember this, what happened to Jesus on the cross was a unique moment in history when Jesus took on the sins of the world. It is a moment that will never happen again.

God has promised us that he will never leave us or forsake us. Even when you don't feel his presence, God is still right there with you. He does not promise to make the suffering go away, yet. There will come a day when God puts an end to all suffering. But until then, you can rest assured that He is with you, no matter what you face.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS:

Do you, or have you ever, felt abandoned by someone you trusted? What was that like? When was the last time you felt God's presence? What did you feel?

Is there someone in your life that may need you to help them feel God's presence again? What can you do today to reach out to them?

PRAYER:

Father, thank You that You will never forsake us. Even when our suffering seems unbearable, You are always there. In those moments when I can't feel Your presence, remind me that You have not left me. Thank You for that confidence, and that I can face the uncertainties of life knowing I am never alone.