

Love & War #3
Abandoned by Sin

Word

Scripture Reference

Nahum 2:3-3:19

Discussion Questions

1. What would be the worst abandonment a person can go through? Why?
2. Abandonment is a heart felt terrible feeling when a loved one leaves because of death or other reason. Sometimes, the feelings get out of control especially when someone you trust abandons you in times of trouble. Many people trust or hold on to sinful things for fear of being abandoned. But if you rely on this sinful world as a foundation of your trust, then you will realize that in times of trouble, it will surely abandon you, and will not stand up for you. Discuss what the world offers that you strive to have it as a foundation of your trust but it would abandon you when trouble comes.
3. Read Nahum 2:3-3:19. In God's prophesied punishment to the nation of Assyria, represented by its capital Nineveh, you can see how the rightful wrath of God would judge them because of how they opposed God and oppressed His people. God's judgment is perfectly fair and it would not occur without a cause. What is the prophetic description of God's judgment to Nineveh (v.3-13) which history proved happened? What did God decree in verse 7? Do you think anyone could stand up to God's judgment? Verse 8 pictures abandonment when Nineveh cried for someone to stop to help, but no one turned back. Share how you would feel if you are in trouble and desperate for help but no one and nothing you have would help.
4. "I am against you!" in verse 13 is a sobering warning from God. First, it is because when God is against you, a sinful world will not stand with you (v. 2:3-13). Assyrian cried for help from God's judgment, but none did. Why do you think no one helped them? Share examples of how people have short memories and forget the people that used to be meaningful to them. Discuss why the longer your love for the world is, the deeper torment you would feel when it abandons you? What should you do so that God won't tell you that He is against you?
5. Second, when God is against you, He will shame you by exposing your sins to the world (3:1-7). Nineveh was described like a harlot or prostitute that enticed other nations into false friendship and witchcraft and when these nations fall into its trap, Assyria would destroy and plunder them (v.4). This was the reason why God

allowed the horrific scene described in this passage to happen to the city of the Nineveh. What were the vivid pictures in verses 5-6 of how God shamed them because of what they did? Are you afraid of having your sins exposed? Discuss why being exposed is more horrible than the sin you committed? Share examples of how sins of others have been exposed to the world that caused these people to be a pariah in society. How should God being all-knowing keep you from sinning?

6. Last, when God is against you, you are powerless to help yourself (3:8-19). Thebes was a city in Egypt that had stood in the way of Assyrian's expansion in the south. The Assyrians had conquered Thebes before this prophecy was given. To Judah, surrounded to the north and south by Assyria, the situation appeared hopeless. But God said that the same cruelties would happen in Nineveh. Assyria was powerless to help itself. And no one would help it. All its power was gone and its allies abandoned it. How is this true in our time? Discuss how powerless a person could be when God is against that person. How should the consequences of sin keep you away from falling into the attraction of this sinful world? Why should you not learn through your personal experiences alone, but learn from the lessons history or others' experiences have already taught?

Walk

For Christians who continue to side with the world, remember that when God is against you, a sinful world will not stand with you; He will shame you by exposing your sins to the world; and you are powerless to help yourself. Feeling sorry for your sin is not enough. God will forgive but you still have to suffer the consequences of your sin. How should this truth sober you up? Ask God to give you the strength to overcome sin. Would you stand with the world that will abandon you or with the One Who sticks like a brother and will be with you when judgment comes?

Worship & Prayer

Heavenly Father, it is so scary what could happen when you are against me. There is no way I can overcome sin on my own. Thank you that you didn't abandon me but You sent your begotten Son Jesus to die to pay for the transgression of my sin. And He is there to stand by me and intercede before your Holy Throne day and night to depend me from the attacks of my enemy. Thank you that through the blood shed on the cross by my Savior Jesus, I was made righteous. He took the shame and abandonment of my sin and put it on Himself and declared it openly to the world that He bore my transgression and paid for it with His blood. Thank you that through Him I can live a victorious life. In Jesus' Name, Amen.