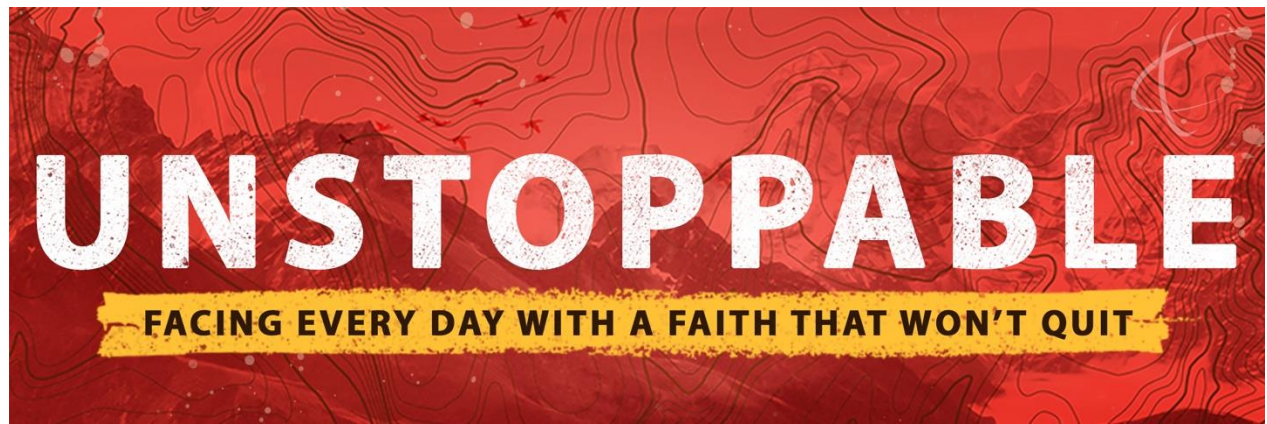


DISCUSSION QUESTIONS



These discussion questions are designed to extend the impact of the Sunday message. You can use them for your personal Bible study, family study, and/or small group study.

Overview

Sermon: *Unstoppable Truth*

14 Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, - Ephesians 6:14

After David defeats Goliath he befriends Saul's son Jonathan. They became best of friends. David stayed in the company of Saul and Saul gave him important military assignments. Each mission Saul sent him on was successful. All of Israel started to take notice.

1 Samuel 18:6-7 (NIV) When the men were returning home after David had killed the Philistine, the women came out from all the towns of Israel to meet King Saul with singing and dancing, with joyful songs and with timbrels and lyres. 7 As they danced, they sang:
"Saul has slain his thousands, and David his tens of thousands."

Saul became jealous of David's fame and this led to an intense hatred of David. He hates David so much and distrusts him so much that he attempts to take his life multiple times. The word of God says that the Spirit of the Lord had departed from Saul and that the Lord was with David.

Saul sees that the hand of God is upon David. Saul sends David on dangerous missions hoping the Philistines would kill him. Later, Saul pursues David with the Israelite army. This forces David to run away and go into hiding. Many of David's fighting men are loyal to him so he amasses a small army of about 600 men.

On two occasions David has opportunity to kill Saul. It is as if God had delivered Saul over into David's hands, but he refuses. David, will not kill the one who God has anointed king. He believes in the truth of God's timing and calling.

In a dramatic turn of events, after the second time that David could have killed Saul but didn't, Saul confesses that he has sinned against God. He gives David a blessing and returns home. Saul stops chasing David! Not killing Saul must have taken a lot of faith, restraint, and mental toughness for David. What a victory! But something unexpected happens. David doesn't return home himself.

Discussion

1. Read 1 Samuel 27. How can we let our guard down after a big victory or when something good happens to us? Have you ever made a decision and later regretted it? What was it and why did you regret it?

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DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

2. David sought refuge in Philistia and makes his home with his enemies. How do people choose to seek refuge in the world to escape life's challenges? How does lead to disorientation, not knowing right from wrong?
3. "Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own." – Jesus. David worries that Saul will kill him. How can worry keep us from seeing the truth of God for our lives? How does worry cause us to doubt our identity and calling?
4. David thinks that the best thing he can do is go the land of the Philistines. How does fear limit our options for making good choices? How do our poor choices affect our families and/or the people we love?
5. David, a prolific song writer doesn't write a Psalm while living in Ziklag. How does seeking our refuge in enemy territory cause our praise to dry up? How does friendship with the world diminish our witness and influence? How was David acting more like the world than like "a man after God's own heart?" How might Christians be tempted to do the same as David?
6. David's new home in Ziklag is attacked and destroyed by the Amalekites (1 Samuel 30). How can seeking refuge with the world backfire on us? How might we become more isolated and alone losing what's most important to us?

Application

7. God is our true refuge. David panics and runs quickly in the wrong direction. Where in your life do you need to turn around and run to God to confess and repent? What do you need to do to make God your true refuge?