

Passage: Habakkuk 1:1-17; 2:1

¹The oracle that Habakkuk the prophet saw. ²O LORD, how long shall I cry for help, and you will not hear? Or cry to you “Violence!” and you will not save? ³Why do you make me see iniquity, and why do you idly look at wrong? Destruction and violence are before me; strife and contention arise. ⁴So the law is paralyzed, and justice never goes forth. For the wicked surround the righteous; so justice goes forth perverted. ⁵“Look among the nations, and see; wonder and be astounded. For I am doing a work in your days that you would not believe if told.

¹ I will take my stand at my watchpost and station myself on the tower, and look out to see what he will say to me, and what I will answer concerning my complaint.

Background

In our new series, Fresh Start, we will walk through the book of Habakkuk as we see how God’s prophet attempts to reconcile what he knows about God – who He is and what He has done – with the reality of his own circumstances – wickedness inside and outside of Judah. We’ve all been there before and maybe even now. We’ve seen the disconnect between what we think or know about God and what we see happening around us and in our own lives. We may even find ourselves disappointed that God has not answered our prayers the way we thought He should or would. Today, Pastor David will help us begin to unpack the process by which Habakkuk brought his concerns and confusion to God which would ultimately lead to a deeper trust and dependence upon God.

Service Notes

What is your biggest takeaway from today’s message?

DISCUSSION GUIDE

Instructions

This discussion guide is to help you facilitate a conversation with your small group. The “Getting Started” section serves as a quick opener and introduction to the group conversation. In the “Talk it Over” section, feel free to use all or only some of the questions. Again, our hope is to have meaningful and encouraging conversations around the passage used in the sermon, not simply answer all the questions. Give each member of your group opportunity to respond. Take your time. Finally, the “Live it Out” section is to help identify a specific next step. Use these questions as a guide to find practical ways to apply the passage to our everyday life.

Getting Started

- ▼ What stood out to you in the message? What is one thought from the message that made you hopeful? What prompted questions? How can we pray for you this week?

Talk it Over

- ▼ **Read Habakkuk 1:1-4.** How would you summarize Habakkuk’s concern? How would you describe his mental or emotional state in these verses? Why is it helpful in times of confusion to be honest before God? What part of his ‘outcry’ resonates the most with you? In what ways does Habakkuk’s honest frustration encourage you right now?
- ▼ **Read Habakkuk 1:5 and Isaiah 55:8-9.** God’s response to Habakkuk (vs. 5-11) was unexpected. God was going to deal with sinfulness of Judah by using the even more wicked kingdom of Babylon. How does Isaiah 55 give us hope when we don’t know what God is up to in our own lives? How have you experienced God working in your life in unexpected ways? What did you learn through those experiences?
- ▼ Who are some other examples in Scripture of people who struggled to understand what God was doing (or NOT doing) in their lives and the world around them? What can we learn from their story? What is one way you can be an encouragement to someone else when they might be confused or even disappointed when God isn’t ‘working’ the way they hoped?

Live it Out

- ▼ What concern do you need to be honest about before the Lord? In what ways can you practice handing over or surrendering that burden to God? How can your group help?

