

Sermon Title: The Book of Habakkuk

I want to start today with a quote from Voltaire “Judge a man by his **questions** rather than by his answers.”

I’ve noticed over the years many different responses to my questions.

- Some people loved being asked questions
- Some people are skeptical of people asking them questions
- Some people that get instantly defensive when asked a question

Have you ever thought, how does **God respond** to my questions?

The book of Habakkuk is different from the rest of the minor prophets because it is a dialogue between Habakkuk and God.

- Habakkuk asks God questions, and God answers.
- They are not the answers Habakkuk wants because God is not a yes man or a cosmic vending machine.

The most important question, why was it written?

1. To show us that no matter what your emotional state is, it is better to go to God with your questions than to go to the world.
2. To answer the question of “Why does God use **sinful people** to bring about his righteous plan?”
3. To show us how to react when God actually reveals his plan to us.

The Book itself:

- **1:2-4** - This is a direct question to God about when he is going to judge his people in Judah.
- God responds in **1:5-11** – he says very soon the Chaldeans will bring about my justice upon Judah. The Chaldeans are also known as the Babylonians, and Habakkuk didn’t like that answer.
- Habakkuk can’t understand how God could use a more sinful people to judge his own people. He does ask God about that in verses 12-17 of chapter 1.
- God responds in chapter **2:2-5**, reassuring us that sin will always receive its justice, we just need to wait to see it.
- The rest of chapter 2 God gives 5 woes all toward the Chaldeans, judging them for their violent, corrupt ways.

- Habakkuk hears God’s plan and finally he takes the right approach in chapter 3. He writes a Psalm of praise to God for who God is.
- Habakkuk ends the Psalm with these words from **3:17-19**.

The 4 C’s of the journey Habakkuk displays for us:

1. **Cry out to God** - Habakkuk doesn’t hold back his emotions to God in chapter 1. We need to have a healthy reverence toward God, but he also knows our emotions, so we don’t have to hold anything back from Him.
2. **Wrestling with our Confusion**: Not everything in God’s plan is going to make perfect sense to us. For Habakkuk, he could not understand how God could use a more sinful people in the Chaldeans to enact justice upon Judah for their sin. So the question remains, are you ok following a God that you don’t know every detail about?
3. **Confidence in God and not in me**: Once we can be ok with having a mystery with God, and still know that He is on the throne, we move from confusion to confidence. If we know what God’s word promises, and we know that God is sovereign and in control, the last variable is the timing of it, we just have to wait with confidence.
4. **Celebrate no matter the outcome**: Sometimes when we cry out to God, we will see the results we are looking for. Other times God’s plan will be completely different from ours. And other times God’s plan lines up with our plan, but we just don’t see the results in our timing. No matter which one of those outcomes we have, we need to learn from Habakkuk and celebrate.

Challenges:

1. Take time this week to cry out to God.
2. Observe your **actions and attitude** this week to ask yourself the question, “Who do I really have faith in?”
3. Take some time and celebrate this week

God will judge us by our faith, so let’s start today working from our questions and confusion, toward confidence and celebration in Him.

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4. _____ no matter the outcome: Sometimes when we cry out to God, we will see the results we are looking for. Other times God’s plan will be completely different from ours. And other times God’s plan lines up with our plan, but we just don’t see the results in our timing. No matter which one of those outcomes we have, we need to learn from Habakkuk and celebrate.

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Scripture passages to go up on the Screen:

Habakkuk 1:2-4 - “O Lord, how long shall I cry for help, and you will not hear? Or cry to you “Violence!” and you will not save? Why do you make me see iniquity, and why do you idly look at wrong? Destruction and violence are before me; strife and contention arise. So the law is paralyzed, and justice never goes forth. For the wicked surround the righteous; so justice goes forth perverted.”

Habakkuk 1:5-11 - ““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. For behold, I am raising up the Chaldeans, that bitter and hasty nation, who march through the breadth of the earth, to seize dwellings not their own. They are dreaded and fearsome; their justice and dignity go forth from themselves. Their horses are swifter than leopards, more fierce than the evening wolves; their horsemen press proudly on. Their horsemen come from afar; they fly like an eagle swift to devour. They all come for violence, all their faces forward. They gather captives like sand. At kings they scoff, and at rulers they laugh. They laugh at every fortress, for they pile up earth and take it. Then they sweep by like the wind and go on, guilty men, whose own might is their god!”

Habakkuk 2:2-5 - “Write the vision; make it plain on tablets, so he may run who reads it. For still the vision awaits its appointed time; it hastens to the end—it will not lie. If it seems slow, wait for it; it will surely come; it will not delay. “Behold, his soul is puffed up; it is not upright within him, but the righteous shall live by his faith.”
“Moreover, wine is a traitor, an arrogant man who is never at rest. His greed is as wide as Sheol; like death he has never enough. He gathers for himself all nations and collects as his own all peoples.”

Habakkuk 3:17-19 - “Though the fig tree should not blossom, nor fruit be on the vines, the produce of the olive fail and the fields yield no food, the flock be cut off from the fold and there be no herd in the stalls, yet I will rejoice in the LORD; I will take joy in the God of my salvation. GOD, the Lord, is my strength; he makes my feet like the deer's; he makes me tread on my high places.”