

## Habakkuk The Waiting Room – part 2

### Habakkuk 2:1-3

- Habakkuk an entire book with someone in a waiting room of life.
- His book is rather unusual among the prophets because most contain a message from God to the people through a particular prophet, but his is record of a prophet's conversation with God.
- Habakkuk starts out whining to God because of the conditions around him and that it didn't seem like God was doing anything.
- God shows him the answer, but Habakkuk doesn't like it because it doesn't seem right to him that a disobedient people of God should be judged by means of a godless people like the Babylonians.
- So, God basically tells him to shut his trap and just trust Him at the end of chapter 2.
- In chapter 3, Habakkuk comes up with a brilliant plan: he decides to shut his trap and just trust God!
- That's basically the whole book; the biggest lesson we can learn from it all--one of the biggest in life—to keep quiet and trust God; to be still and trust Him, His character, His power and His unfailing plan.

### 1. 4 things that we can learn to help us wait correctly.

1. Trust the Character of God – Habakkuk fully believes God cares enough to answer him and that His answer is the best thing. 3:17-19
  - Are you firmly convinced that God's answer is the best thing? That God loves you and has a wonderful plan for you life? Jer. 29:11
  - God has taken care of the big stuff, so He'll take care of the smaller stuff. Rom. 8:32.
  - Trust that God will answer you: Jer. 33:3; I Pet. 5:7 (do you believe this?)
2. Ask God specifically
  - Habakkuk is not afraid to ask God why—there is nothing wrong with that question.
  - Matt. 7:7-8; James 4:2 (what are you missing out on because you haven't asked?)
3. Expect an answer from God
  - Look what Habakkuk does – he readies himself to hear from God, and then he hears.
  - When you pray, do you expect an answer?
  - James 1:5-8 – A lot of times we don't get an answer because we don't really expect one.

We may not like the answer – Habakkuk didn't at first but then he straightens himself.

- II Corinthians 12:7-10 -- Paul prayed 3 times because He didn't like the answer, but then he straightened himself with the knowledge that God had the better idea.
- A servant doesn't get a vote on the Master's decision; a beggar doesn't get to choose. He can do anything He wants with us, and what He wants is what's best.

4. Remember, sometimes what you're waiting for is not what you're waiting for—Ask Habakkuk!
  - Sometimes as we wait we tend to think that all that matters is what we have going on in our lives.

Here is some great biblical advice: stop thinking about yourself!

- There are two extremes that the Bible is dead set against: 1. High self esteem; 2. Low self-esteem. The primary problem is that, in both cases, your focus is yourself—stop doing that!
- The Bible's simple yet profound teaching is to focus on others.
- Let your waiting be seasoned with the attitude of: “How can I best be used for other's sake?”

Sometimes what we are waiting for is not what we want at all: ask Jonah “Go to Nineveh and preach” and he set sail for Tarshish!

--What is real waiting on the Lord is the same question as: What is discipleship? A real disciple waits on the Lord for whatever He has.

--To go off on your own initiative is not discipleship; to refuse to go or to refuse to stay is not real discipleship.

--Discipleship is doing what you're told, when you're told; for as long as you are told.

Sometimes what we are waiting for makes no sense at all:

**Matthew 16:21-22** –Peter is just as ignorant about the things that mattered as he possibly could be.

--Part of our waiting has to have this mixed into it: “Sheep are ignorant; I'm a sheep; what am I missing?”

## **2. Signs you are listening**

1. You've gotten into a Quiet place – Hab. 2:20 -- If you want to hear from God, make sure you're somewhere that you can listen.

--Habakkuk goes to a watchtower because, among other things, it's a quiet place...no distractions.

--Are you quieting yourself before God? **Luke 5:16** Jesus often did this.

--Where can you go that's quiet? Maybe not a place but a time of day.

--There is so much noise in our lives that the voice of God is hard to hear.

It is important for believers to have a “quiet eye” that is fixed on Jesus waiting for us at the finish line. We must guard against anything that would take our focus off of “winning the prize”

**(Philippians 3:13-14)**

--If you expect a response, you will put yourself where you can hear.

2. Writing down His answers – V. 2 – If you expect a response, be ready to write.

--It's amazing how easily answers that come from God get misinterpreted when we really only on our memory of them.

3. Willing to wait – VV. 2-3 – God is not in a hurry – Hurry is the death of waiting and the death of prayer.

--Prayer is stopping and waiting, a sabbath is stopping waiting.

One hot afternoon, a certain woman walked to her neighbor's produce stand to buy grapes. The line was long. And each person seemed to get special attention. But she waited patiently. When she finally made it to the front of the line, the owner asked for her order. She asked for grapes. "Please excuse me for a minute," was the answer. Then the owner walked away and disappeared behind a building. For some reason, this rubbed the woman the wrong way. Everyone in line before her was greeted warmly. They were given special attention. And, most importantly, they were served immediately. But she was forced to wait. And when she got to the front of the line, she was forced to wait some more. She was offended. She felt the owner took her regular business for granted. The longer she waited, the angrier she became.

Finally, the produce stand owner reappeared. And with a big smile, he presented her with the most beautiful grapes she had ever seen. He invited her to taste them. She had never tasted grapes so good. As she turned to leave with her delicious grapes, he stopped her. "Oh yeah, I'm sorry I kept you waiting," said the farmer. "But I needed the time to get you my very best."

--How long have you been in line waiting on God to get to your request? ---How long have you been waiting in line for God to meet a need, solve a problem, or open a door?

--Whatever you do, don't get out of line. And don't stop praying. Wait on God.