

****Have Faith Anyway: Living By Faith**
Habakkuk 2:1-5

Review

Northern Kingdom of Israel already conquered

Southern Kingdom was in turmoil, people of God rebelling against God

Habakkuk sees it and complains to God

1. Where are you God? Don't you see? Don't you care? Aren't you going to do something?

God's answer: I am working. I bringing the Babylonians against you.

"Have faith anyway."

2. Excuse me? You can't do that. Your people are better than the Babylonians.

God often answers in unexpected ways.

Is God really on the throne? - The answer is yes. He knows what He's doing.

After making his second complaint to God, he didn't get an answer immediately. He said:

Hab 2:1 I will stand at my watch and station myself on the ramparts; I will look to see what he will say to me, and what answer I am to give to this complaint.

** Stone watchtowers were often built as a look-out place for enemies or messengers. You could see whoever was approaching the city. Place to wait for news.

(Ex:) Bowie sitting at window by door watching and waiting for Nancy to come home. Drool on floor. "Oh boy. I've been waiting all day! Let's go for a walk!"

Habakkuk quietly waited - don't know how long - hrs, days, weeks, months? He was confident.

Habakkuk complained strongly to God. God's answer same as today - Be patient. - He won't be rushed.

How patient are we? Do we trust God? (Easy when all is well - hard when difficulties)

We are used to instant gratification - human way. Cell phones, internet, instant message, business profits

God says, "Trust Me. Be patient."

** To trust God fully means to trust him even when we don't understand why events occur.

Lesson Habakkuk had to learn. God is working. He had to trust him. Be patient.

Habakkuk would have seen the coming of the Babylonians as more of the same.

Seen as God's inaction, lack of care/concern for His people

Not at all - actually God's answer to bring good, restitution, spiritual renewal

- Peter Craigie, in Twelve Prophets, writes, *"God's apparent inaction in response to evil was a source of difficulty for the prophet, but he had made the mistake of measuring God on the human scale of time. He had thought that God does not act, but he was coming to realize that God had simply not acted yet. He knew that God ought to act in response to evil, and in this he was correct; he thought he knew when God ought to act, and in this he was wrong... **Human beings do not have either the knowledge or wisdom to know when God should act...The apparent lack of divine action, which may cause faith to falter, is in reality only our inability to perceive the timing of divine action."*

God's answer begins in Habakkuk 2:3 *"For the revelation awaits an appointed time..."*

- **God's time, not ours**

Going On....

Habakkuk 2:4 *"See, he is puffed up; his desires are not upright; but the righteous will live by his faith."*

We'll come back to this - crux of the matter - the whole point God is making to Habakkuk.

God describes Babylon in vs. 5 (Read)

Vss 6 - 20 God shares why Babylon will be brought down - lessons for us today.

** Five Woes

** 1. Against stealing and extortion (Vss 6-8)

** 2. Unjust gain and the ruin of others (Vss 9-11)

** 3. Bloodshed and crime (Vss 12-14)

** 4. Debauchery and violence (Vss 15-17)

** 5. Trusting in idols (Vss 18-19)

Perhaps the hardest for us. (I think of India w/thousands of idols)

Idolatry is worshipping anything other than God. Materialistic - things, jobs, cars, retirement

When we create our own idols, we turn away from God.

We forget to love God and love our neighbors as ourselves.

Words are for the Babylonians but also apply to us. Personally and as a nation.

National Day of Prayer.

** Ends with: Vs 20 *"But the Lord is in his holy temple; let all the world be silent before him."*

We've lost the art of being silent before Him.

Coming into the sanctuary, we should realize that *"the Lord is in his holy temple; let all the world be silent before him."*

We should come in on Sunday morning and quiet our hearts and prepare our hearts to meet with God Almighty, the Maker of the Universe.

We have quiet music playing for at least 10 minutes before the service to help us quiet our hearts.

God said, *"The Lord is in his holy temple; let all the world be silent before him."*

Enough! Know your place! Trust Me. You don't understand? Have faith anyway.

You are to live by trusting me. The righteous will live by faith."

** **Let's Go back to verse 4b, "But the righteous will live by his faith."** -quoted by N.T. authors

Romans 1:17 *For in the gospel a righteousness from God is revealed, a righteousness that is by faith from first to last, just as it is written: "The righteous will live by faith."*

Galatians 3:11 *Clearly no one is justified before God by the law, because, "The righteous will live by faith."*

Heb 10:38 *But my righteous one will live by faith.*

SO WHAT?

** WHAT IS LIVING BY FAITH?

** **1. A Trusting Relationship**

Faith is trust and confidence in God. It's believing in things unseen.

2 Corinthians 5:7 *"We live by faith, not by sight."*

Hebrews 11:1 *Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see.*

If we can see it, we can prove it scientifically - we don't need faith.

*The righteous will **live by his faith.***

God is there. Nothing we do, good or bad changes that. He still loves us.

To live by faith means having a trusting relationship with God.

Trusting God, even when you don't understand what God is doing and why.

**** 2. Our response to God's revelation**

What is His revelation?

- Jesus the Son of God.
- Jesus, the way the truth and the life.
- John 3:16 *"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life."*

It's up to us - we are free to respond or not - but there are consequences.

- John 3:18 *Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because he has not believed in the name of God's one and only Son.*

When we choose to respond - begin a life long journey to eternal union with God.

How do we respond?

Ro 10:9 *"That if you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved."*

Grow in faith - makes journey meaningful and exciting

Growth comes from His Word, prayer, fellowship with other believers, learning through joy and sorrow, trials

**** 3. Sense of God's presence**

Living by faith, we sense His presence - almost tangible "feel God's presence"

We see God at work in our lives & in lives of others - testimony time

We see God's work in creation & in universe - sense of awe (w/out faith, people can't)

We sense it in the love we share one for another

We sense His presence when we are called on to do more and to be more -

"I will never leave you nor forsake you.

- take up cross and carry it

Because of God's presence we can love the unlovely, forgive - Christ's example on cross

**** 4. Connects us with the power of Christ**

- Healing power

people healed, their faith healed them (Last week Ann Ferugia experienced God's healing touch)

- ex. Woman bleeding for 12 yrs -touched cloak

- Ex: Mt 9:22 *Jesus turned and saw her. "Take heart, daughter," he said, (my power? No) "your faith has healed you." And the woman was healed from that moment.*

- Ex: Jesus healed two blind men, "Do you believe that I am able to do this?" - Yes

Mt. 9:30 *"According to your faith will it be done to you";* - Kind of scary isn't it?

Faith was the connection

Jesus wanted to make sure we know how important faith is.

Bold statements about what is possible if we have faith.

*Mt 17:20 ** I tell you the truth, if you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there' and it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you."*

- Spiritual/victorious power - we are more than conquerors

*** Php 3:10 I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the fellowship of sharing in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death,*

**** 5. Being Fully alive**

When we live by faith we are fully alive!

Acknowledge gifts God has given us and fully use them.

We want our faith to flow into our deeds

We want to serve God by serving others

We accept the message of Jesus and commit to living that message.

John 14:12 I tell you the truth, anyone who has faith in me will do what I have been doing. He will do even greater things than these. What things? Miracles, - preaching and teaching

Like Habakkuk, our faith may be tested.

We may face devastation and even death

James reminds us:

Jas 1:2 Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance. Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.

"I don't like it. It's not fair." It's the way it is. We're in a fallen world. We all take part in sin.

Consequence

Ex. Joseph, Job, Stephen, Paul, Jesus - Jim Elliot with Auca Indians

*** Isaiah 7:9 If you do not stand firm in your faith, you will not stand at all.* (Ex: Bowie standing firm)

*** 1Corinthians 16:13 Be on your guard; stand firm in the faith;*

Urged Timothy to *** "fight the good fight of the faith."* 1 Timothy 6:12

At the end of our life/journey of faith, will we be able to say with Paul:

*** 2Timothy 4:6-7 For I am already being poured out like a drink offering, and the time has come for my departure. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.*

The *NIV Application Commentary* states that the phrase "the righteous will live by his faith" means that "those who want to live in a right relationship with God and his people will live by their trust in the promises of the Lord."

Do you trust in the promises of the Lord?

What are some of the promises of God that are pertinent to your life?

Where do you see God in your daily life?