

## *Habakkuk: The Just Will Live by Faith*

Good morning and welcome to CHC.

Thank you for being with us today. We say this a lot around here...your presence matters.

Maybe you brought some brokenness in here with you this morning. Or maybe a little baggage. You're in the right place. Feel right at home, because we all have it.

That's what a church is...a bunch of broken people seeking God wisdom and guidance for life.

I believe the world needs more Christians and the world needs better Christians.

Let's jump into the Word of God today and see what He has for you. How many of you believe God has something for you? Tell the person next to you...He has something for you!

Today we are going to be in Habakkuk 2.

We started walking through this minor prophet book a couple of weeks ago. We tackled the tough question.... Why would a good God let bad things happen to good people?

We learned that suffering in our lives isn't a lack of love. The story of Jesus actually helps us make sense of suffering and injustice.

A quick refresher about Habakkuk: This book is unique in that rather than speaking to the people on behalf of God like most prophets do...Habakkuk spoke to God on behalf of the people.

This whole book is a conversation between Habakkuk and God.

In chapter 1 we saw Habakkuk pray, God answered, Habakkuk didn't like the answer so he prays again.

But at the end of his second pray, Habakkuk changes his position.

**Habakkuk 2.1 | I will stand at my guard post and station myself on the lookout tower. I will watch to see what he will say to me and what I should reply about my complaint.**

Changed position, changed perspective...focused on God, not problem.

Before Habakkuk speaks for God he had to see God---Went to his lookout to get his eyes on Jesus.

## **Where you position yourself determines what you can see.**

People you hang with. Media you consume. Places you go.

*Illustration:* Watching planes through the woods.

What have I missed out on from God because I was in the wrong place?

## **Have I positioned myself in a place to hear from God?**

Habakkuk plants himself in God's presence and he's waiting expectantly and then God speaks. Let's see what God says.

Let's stand in honor of the Word of God.

In **Habakkuk 2.2-4**, God starts giving him the answer...**The LORD answered me: Write down this vision; clearly inscribe it on tablets so one may easily read it. <sup>3</sup> For the vision is yet for the appointed time; it testifies about the end and will not lie. Though it delays, wait for it, since it will certainly come and not be late. <sup>4</sup> Look, his ego is inflated; he is without integrity. But the righteous one will live by his faith.**

God gives Habakkuk a vision of what's going to happen. He tells him to write it down.

Vision matters. **Proverbs 29.18** | **Where there is no vision, the people perish.**

Moving forward in this life requires vision.

God desires for us to moving forward...relationally, spiritually, emotionally, financially.

When you get a vision, it points to what is coming.

Most of us don't have a vision. We just exist.

When you have no vision from God your life just goes anywhere. You find yourself in unexpected places. You find yourself in unwanted places.

Illustration: Letting air out of a ballon...it's all over the place.

If that's you...it's time to get some vision from God and write it down.

Why? Without vision people perish. I don't want you to continue to perish. I don't want you to continue to go nowhere.

My finances are jacked up and not getting any better. Get a vision from God.  
My marriage is still broken. Well, you haven't done anything to make it better.

What's God's vision for my life? (See me as God sees me)  
For my spouse? (Love my wife as God loves me.)  
For my children? (Disciple my children as God calls me to.)

Get a piece of paper and ask God for vision. Write it out. Write out what is coming.

This what I tried to lay out a few weeks ago in launching the Hope Project.

One day...I'm going to be preaching in a building owned by CHC. Why? Because God gave us that vision.

One day...We are going to have a Hope center that will be full of people who need help and need hope. And some of you will be there walking with them. Giving them hope!

We are moving forward as a church because that's God's vision.

You move forward in your life when you get Gods vision for your life.

In every vision...God has a plan, and you have a part.

We don't write the vision...Love my wife the way Christ loves me...and then just sit back and say ok God, I got this vision, make it happen.

"Im gonna let go and let God" I No we have a responsibility to cooperate with God's transforming grace.

**St. Augustine | Without God, we cannot. Without us, God will not.**

God gives the vision and then you and I seek Him for our part in that vision.

**You must work out what God has worked in.**

**Proverbs 14.15 | The inexperienced one believes anything, but the sensible one watches his steps.**

This is what keeps so many people from living in the vision God has. We don't take the time necessary to know the steps that are necessary.

Write down the vision and ask God for a strategy on how to get there.

Moses had a strategy. Joshua had a strategy; Nehemiah had a strategy.

Sometimes the strategy includes waiting.

This is where it gets tough for many of us... **Vs. 3 | <sup>3</sup> For the vision is yet for the appointed time; it testifies about the end and will not lie. Though it delays, wait for it, since it will certainly come and not be late.**

The vision is going to come...in due time. In His time. If it seems slow in coming, wait. It's on its way. It will come right on time.

In life, there is lots of waiting.

You call someone and they put you on hold.  
You stop at a red light  
You sit in a drive through  
You wait for amazon to deliver  
You schedule a vacation or trip..." I can't wait"

Life kind of revolves around waiting.

Waiting is not the most favorite thing for us to do...but God tells Habakkuk, though it delays wait for it. Part of this strategy is waiting.

You know what waiting really is when it comes to God? Trusting.

**Isaiah 40.31 I but they who **wait** for the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint. (ESV)**

**Isaiah 40.31 I but those who **trust** in the LORD will renew their strength; they will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not become weary, they will walk and not faint. (CSB)**

God, I trust you...I'm going to wait for this vision.

I'm going to keep living while I wait. Keep worshipping while I wait. Keep giving while I wait. Keep serving while I wait.

Group of Scholars who called themselves Journey said it best...Don't stop believing. Don't stop showing up. Don't stop growing.

We don't become like Jesus overnight. We don't reap what we sow in one day.

This is a tough sell in our culture of instant gratification.

**Waiting is a part of your spiritual formation.**

It's vital that we understand...Even in our waiting we are being formed.

You've been formed already leading you to today.  
You're being formed even now as you sit here and listen.  
You will continue to be formed in the days to come.

This spiritual formation is not optional is happening to all of us.

"We are either being transformed into the love and beauty of Jesus or malformed by the entropy of sin and death. We become either agents of God's healthy and liberating grace, or carriers of the sickness of the world."

You're becoming a person; that much is unavoidable. Why not become a person who is pervaded by the love of Jesus?

As you are waiting...surrender your will and become the person God calls you to be.

You know what the number 1 obstacle...no, excuse, people use when it comes to formation? I'm too busy.

The reality is the majority of us waste a lot of time.

Stats:

AVG millennial is on their phone 3-4 hours per day

AVG adults 35-45 watch 2-3 hours of TV per day

There is an old saying...A black belt is just a white belt who never quit.

A mature believer is just an ordinary believer who stayed at it with Jesus.

Sometimes the vision calls for waiting.

Let's keep moving in our story. Habakkuk cries out. God starts answering.

Habakkuk is crying out for justice in the way he thinks it should happen.

In Vs. 4-19 – Gods justice done Gods way. Summarize.

**Vs. 4-6 | The arrogant and greedy will be taunted**

**Vs. 6-8 | He who steals will be plundered**

**Vs. 9-11 | He who gets wealth unjustly is forfeiting his life.**

**Vs. 12-14 | He who builds with violence builds in vain**

**Vs. 15-17 | He who uses power to abuse will taste his own medicine.**

**Vs. 18-19 | He who turns to idols for help will find no help at all.**

I can just imagine this wrestling going on back and forth between God and Habakkuk.

As God starts this list of things he's going to punish...I see Habakkuk like, "yes" "lets go"

BTW...Wrestling with God requires closeness.

Conclusion:

Look at this as we close...Habakkuk was really focused on the injustice.

He had some pretty bold words for God in these prayers. And that's perfectly ok. God can handle your tough questions. God can handle your frustration and hurts.

**Whatever you're worried about, Gods working on it.**

God gave Habakkuk this vision. Told Him to write it down and wait.

What's God vision for you? What's your part of the vision?

Maybe you're in a season of waiting. Be intentional with your formation.

Have you truly trusted God for your life?