

Habakkuk - Week 3 Sermon

Welcome to CHC. We are so grateful you are here. My name is Bobby, and I would love to meet you after the service if we haven't.

We have a gift for you and would love to help you connect.

Our mission here at CHC...is to invite everyday people to experience the hope of Jesus in every way.

That's my prayer for each of you today...that you would know you experienced Him!!!

Summer is here and that means our schedule looks a little different. Schools out. Here at JP2 they will be starting some construction projects so things may look a little different over the next few weeks.

All the more reason for you to give to the Hope Project so we can move into our own house!!

We are closing out our sermon series on the book of Habakkuk.

Habakkuk is one of the Minor Prophets. The last 12 books of the Old Testament are all considered minor prophets. This is the 8th one.

These are referred to as minor, not because they are less important. What they write is generally shorter.

A little study into Habakkuk and we see that he is mentioned nowhere else in the Bible. These 3 chapters are all that we get.

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.

It starts with Habakkuk in attack mode. Why aren't you listening to me? Why haven't you done what I've asked. Why are you allowing these wrong things to happen? I just cannot believe you would make me go through this.

Week 1 we locked in on why bad things happen to good people. We discussed the theological term Free Will.

Free will is the ability to choose. You and I have the ability to choose love or to choose hate.

Freedom to choose love comes with freedom to choose evil, or what the Bible calls sin.

Suffering is evidence that there is free will.

Habakkuk sees suffering and injustice and he takes it to God.

Be careful where you take your struggles. **Move forward in moments where it doesn't make sense.**

God answers...I am working. As a matter of fact, I'm doing something that you won't even understand.

God would rather you wrestle than walk away.

He can handle it all. That's what Habakkuk teaches us.

Habakkuk doesn't love the answer, so he starts in on another bold prayer. But at the end of this prayer, he changes his tune.

He changes his position and that changed his perspective.

Some of you just need a new perspective. A new outlook. The question for you is, **Have I positioned myself in a place to hear from God?**

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

Habakkuk plants himself in God's presence and he's waiting expectantly and then God speaks.

Once again God lets him know that He's going to do things in His ways in His timing.

God gives Habakkuk a vision, says write it down and then wait for it to happen.

Throughout the rest of chapter 2 God lets Habakkuk know how things are going to happen.

It reminds us that, **whatever you're worried about, Gods already working on it.**

When we get to chapter 3, nothing has changed on the outside. But something has changed mightily on the inside.

His situation was still the same, but his song was new.

Habakkuk 3.1 | A prayer of the prophet Habakkuk. According to *Shigionoth*.

This prayer in chapter 3 is a psalm to be sung with music. This song represents the prophet's response to God's messages to Him.

Habakkuk 3.2 | LORD, I have heard the report about you;

In order to hear, you have to be quiet. You can't talk and listen at the same time. This is critical. Some of you haven't heard from God in so long and the questions aren't, God are you speaking...the question is **Am I listening?**

Maybe you're hear this morning, and you haven't heard from God in a while. You feel He is silent.

This Bible is the word of God. Every word written is God speaking to you.

God speaks to you by the Holy Spirit. As you walk closely with God, you will come to recognize His voice.

God speaks through a variety of means. Today God primarily speaks by the Holy Spirit through the Bible, prayer, circumstances, and the church.

If you want to know the will and voice of God, you must devote time and effort to cultivate a love relationship with Him.

I think Habakkuk teaches us a valuable lesson here...If you do not have clear instructions from God in a matter, pray and wait.

So, he's listening to God and then look at this. **Hab. 3.2b | LORD, I stand in awe of your deeds.**

Here is the shift in his words. He starts praising God. I stand in awe!

When you're missing the presence of God, start praising Him.

Vs. 3-15: This is the vision God gave Habakkuk. This vision portrays God marching north in power and wrath.

As he wraps up this conversation...look at his words.

Habakkuk 3.16-19 | I heard, and I trembled within; my lips quivered at the sound. Rottenness entered my bones; I trembled where I stood. (He heard the vision. Didn't like the vision)

Now I must quietly wait for the day of distress to come against the people invading us. ¹⁷ Though the fig tree does not bud and there is no fruit on the vines, though the olive crop fails, and the fields produce no food, though the flocks disappear from the pen and there are no herds in the stalls, ¹⁸ yet I will celebrate

in the LORD; I will rejoice in the God of my salvation! ¹⁹ The LORD my Lord is my strength; he makes my feet like those of a deer and enables me to walk on mountain heights!

Even if nothing changes. Even if it gets worse. No matter what, I'm going to praise Him.

I'm going to worship while I wait. Here is the word God gave me this week...

When you worship, you're placing worth.

This is what Habakkuk is doing. He's placing worth on God..

Now keep listening...if you're listening say I am.

Worship isn't just about music. Worship doesn't start when the guitar starts strumming. It's not just the expression of music. Worship is a lifestyle.

When I serve in my sweet spot, I'm worshipping because I'm placing worth on the gifts and passions God placed within me.

When I give, I'm worshipping because I'm placing worth on the treasures God has given to me.

When I'm obedient to God's commands, I'm worshipping because I'm placing worth on His Word.

What is God worth to you?

He's worthy of your worship, church.

When we come together on Sundays, view this as your opportunity to worship

I'm gonna serve, I'm gonna give, I'm gonna sing, I'm gonna teach, I'm gonna listen... I'm gonna worship!

Why...because He's worthy of it all!

- *Brad go into "worthy of it all." (Worship Space)*

(come back up after)

Habakkuk didn't always understand, but He knew God was worth it.

Have you given God your life? Its worth it.

Have you given Him your dreams? Its worth it.

Have you given Him your struggles? Its worth it.

