

Heavy Duty

Preparation for Sunday, April 21, 2013 Habakkuk: Message of Faith

Monday – Tuesday

1. Honest Questions – Read Habakkuk 1:1-3,13; 2:1

- If you were to modernize these verses, what specific acts would you put in place of “oppression” and “violence”? What conflicts seem to be escalating?
- Did you sense the urgency about Habakkuk’s questions? How good are you at being patient in waiting on God’s answers for your questions?
- Where do you see Habakkuk expressing faith and confidence in God’s righteousness?
- In verse 2:1, Habakkuk declared that he would stand guard and wait for his response. Do you tend to wait on God’s response, or continue to shower Him with questions? What is the danger in constantly asking questions?
- What type of things do you think Habakkuk had witnessed that made him so sure he wanted to stand until he got an answer from God?
- Are there any answers from God you are still waiting for? Are they important enough to issue a decree like Habakkuk did?
- Why do you think that Habakkuk was so intent on getting answers from God?
- Put yourself in the prophet’s shoes. What about his experiences would cause him to ask the questions he was asking?
- Has there ever been a time in your life when you felt like the “bad guys” were getting ahead and you were continually finding yourself at the end of the pack? After a while, did God make it clear why He was saving you? Did He prevent you from a possible failure?

Wednesday - Thursday

2. Divine Responses – Read Habakkuk 1:5-6; 2:4-6

- Do you think Habakkuk saw God’s response as good news or bad news?
- When Habakkuk complained about injustice and wrongdoing in verse 3, whose injustice was he talking about—Judah’s or Assyria’s? (Judah)
- Does verse 4, “But the righteous one will live by His faith” seem out of place? Why or why not?
- How does this passage reinforce that God is absolutely sovereign?
- Can you give any examples of times in your own life that you have been “utterly astounded”?
- How do you think it reassured Habakkuk to know that God saw what was happening and He was still at work? Do you believe that God sees the injustices of the world today? Do you believe he is still at work?
- How do you think God pronounces His judgment today?
- God uses strong words for those who are arrogant and live life with selfish ambition. How does God describe the arrogant in verse 5? What does God say will happen to the arrogant in verse 6?
- How do you think it was possible for Bernie Madoff to steal so much money?
- Why do you think it was allowed to happen for so long?

- Do you think that people who lost money in Madoff's Ponzi scheme asked God why he let it happen?
- How would you answer someone who asked you why God allowed an evil event to go on for an extended period?
- Do you think God was ever unfaithful to Judah in Habakkuk's day?
- Do you think that God's truth ever changed during the Madoff situation?

Friday - Saturday

3. Renewed Faith – Read Habakkuk 3:2, 17-19b

- Contrast Habakkuk's attitude in 3:2 to his attitude in verse 1:2. What do you think caused the drastic change?
- What tone of voice do you think Habakkuk had in verse 2?
- What does verse 17 lead you to feel about what Habakkuk is going through?
- Is Habakkuk's response in verse 18 what you expect it to be?
- How would you summarize verses 17-19 in modern terms?
- Compare verses 17-19 to Psalm 18:32-33, which was written after David had been delivered from his enemies. How do you think Habakkuk drew inspiration from what he knew about David's life?
- As Christians, what impact do you think it has on those who watch us when we respond to tough situations in a godly way?

Additional Reading for this Week:

1. Habakkuk – His Life and Times
2. The Chaldeans
3. The Divine Dialogue in the Book of Habakkuk
4. The Fig Tree