

## **Faith in the Person, Not the Outcome**

**Habakkuk 1:5** “Look among the nations, and see; wonder and be astounded. For I am doing a work in your days that you would not believe if told.”

• Habakkuk has tunnel vision because he’s looking at what’s unraveling before him and he’s ultimately holding up two categories before God to better understand:

- *Good Guys;*
- *Bad Guys*

• The bible teaches a different set of categories:

- *Bad Guys;*
- *Jesus*

• Habakkuk is trying to wrap his brain around what God is doing and as he comes to God, he places himself in the position of being good and then wonders why God isn’t doing what He’s supposed to be doing;

**Habakkuk 1:6-11** “For behold, I am raising up the Chaldeans, that bitter and hasty nation, who march through the breadth of the earth, to seize dwellings not their own. They are dreaded and fearsome; their justice and dignity go forth from themselves. Their horses are swifter than leopards, more fierce than the evening wolves; their horsemen press proudly on. Their horsemen come from afar; they fly like an eagle swift to devour. They all come for violence, all their faces forward. They gather captives like sand. At kings they scoff, and at rulers they laugh. They laugh at every fortress, for they pile up earth and take it. Then they sweep by like the wind and go on, guilty men, whose own might is their god!”

• God calls Habakkuk to live by faith; God responds to Habakkuk, but doesn’t answer him;

- *“The thing that characterizes the righteous person above all else is an abiding trust in God and His promises. Because righteous people trust the Lord, they continue to believe Him even when He seems slow to act; obedience is never the ground of our acceptance before God. Those whom the Lord regards as righteous are righteous in His sight before they live a life of faithfulness to Him. Christ and His work are the ground of their righteous status, received by faith alone; obedience and trust are the fruit of justification, not its cause.” (R.C. Sproul)*

### **What Faith Isn’t**

- *Wishful thinking or blind;*
- *Getting what we want*

### **What Faith Is**

- *Conforming our will to God’s (Matthew 6);*
- *Faith helps us come before God;*

- *“The one who states his case first seems right, until the other comes and examines him.” (Proverbs 18:17)*

→ Faith helps us to see the difference between discipline and punishment;

- *"Faithful are the wounds of a friend; profuse are the kisses of an enemy." (Proverbs 27:6)*

→ Faith is the vehicle that carries us through the tension (responding v. answering);

- *"...for we walk by faith, not by sight." (2 Corinthians 5:7)*

→ Faith is trust in the Person not the outcome;

### **The Practical? Lamenting.**

→ *Lamenting and Healing;*

→ *Honesty and Victimization;*

→ *Process and Pressure;*

→ *Counsel and Wisdom;*

→ *Fasting and Communion;*

→ *Time with God and Clarity*

### **Final Thoughts**

→ Jesus isn't a God who idly stands by or supervises from afar, but actually came down and entered into human history;

→ Jesus personally knows what it's like to lament and have frustrations;

- *"For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weakness, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin." (Hebrews 4:15)*

→ Jesus, on the cross, died in our place to remove the punishment that was awaiting us forever; on the cross Jesus died and exchanged His righteousness for the sin of the ungodly;

→ What makes Jesus so personal is that His offer of salvation is a result of Him being what we couldn't, identifying with us, and meeting our need for a Savior;

→ The question Habakkuk asks of "how long?" for us is really "Jesus, when will you return?" so we use the time, the tension that we're in to prepare as we move forward and await His return.