

Thursday, April 30

Habakkuk certainly realizes in this first chapter of his prophecy that things are not looking too good for his people. It was mentioned in the message that when people experiencing tough times, unfairness and challenges, they often do one of two things. Some deny the bad things going on in life and society and in the church. We get nostalgic for the high points in our lives and relationships with God and God's people. The other thing we do is "check out." We declare we are done with life as we know it; often that gets demonstrated in a "me first" or "looking out for number one" mentality. We find our faith shaken and we abandon it.

Have you ever fallen into one of these responses to life's challenges? Do you deny challenges and pine for better days or do you "check out" and abandon your faith or parts of your faith? Meditate on these responses and write your thoughts here.

Friday, May 1

Read Habakkuk 1:1-4 and 1:12-17. Habakkuk really unloads on God wondering how God can even look upon the evil and violence in the world let alone what will happen when the Chaldeans invade their land! He is livid! There seems to be a third response to challenging times that is revealed through the rest of Habakkuk's book: wrestle with God! Dig deep into what you know to be true about God and consider why God doesn't seem to care and do what is right. Yell at God, express your disappointment, and cry out for justice from our God who we believe to be fair. But don't walk away from God! God is with us in our suffering! Be angry and incensed, but do not walk away! Write your thoughts here and search for God's goodness even when life isn't good.

Message Notes – April 26, 2020

*Where is God Today**

- I. To ask the question, "Where is God Today?" is _____ as part of a message series on having hope in the dark.
 - A. This series of message is inspired by the book of the same name by Craig Groeschel, pastor of _____ Church in Oklahoma City.
 - B. Habakkuk is one of the twelve _____ prophets in the Old Testament.
 1. Habakkuk is distinguished by the fact that the book that bears his name is actually a _____ with God.
 2. Habakkuk is different in that he brings a word from the _____ to _____.
 3. Habakkuk asked a question that echoes the question in the hearts and minds of many people today: "Why doesn't God seem _____?"
 4. Habakkuk appears to be a man at his wit's end and he simply must unload or unleash this utterance of _____ with God.
- II. Habakkuk is clearly accusing God of not doing what is _____. He's saying to God, "God – you aren't doing what you should." "What you are doing doesn't seem fair." "God – do you even _____?"
 - A. Verse five in this first chapter of Habakkuk's prophecy is God's first _____ to Habakkuk's cries for justice.
 - B. God's first word to Habakkuk in this conversation acknowledges the _____.
 - C. God responds to Habakkuk, "For I am rousing the Chaldeans, that fierce and impetuous _____.

*Habakkuk 1:1-5 and Romans 8:31-39

D. What this means to Habakkuk and his people is things are going to get a whole lot _____ before they get _____.

III. What _____ is it to push back against God?

A. When we experience a _____ trend it seems we human beings do one of two things.

1. Some _____ the bad things going on in life and society and in the church.

2. The other thing we do is “_____.”

B. There is a third option though; to wrestle with our God and to move forward through the valleys of our lives and spiritual darkness.

1. God understands your pain and would rather have you scream at, be disappointed in, doubt and wrestle with him rather than _____.

2. Wouldn't it be fair to turn that question around and listen for God to inquire, “Where are _____?”

3. Where is God when life gets tough? With us, inviting us to _____ with a faith that is tested in the valleys of our lives.

4. Are you willing to step into the arena and take God up on that _____ to wrestle with Him and with the faith we proclaim?

Daily Meditations and Study Guide

The following is a daily meditation and study guide meant to enhance your understanding of the message and grow as a Christian.

It is offered for your personal reflection or to share with others.

Monday, April 27

Have you ever asked the question, “Where is God today?” or “Where is God when life is tough?” It may seem different to wonder about such a question presented in a church environment, however, it is echoed in the scripture lesson from Habakkuk. It is

a raw and revealing question focused on the fact that sometimes God doesn't seem fair. Have you ever wondered about God's goodness when your life is not good? Think about these questions for a moment and write your response here.

Tuesday, April 28

Read Habakkuk 1:1-4. Habakkuk's words are raw and accusatory towards God as he openly wonders why God is not doing what is right. Habakkuk wonders if God even cares. Have you ever wondered about how God can let injustice and terror and violence be so prevalent in our world? Have you ever wondered why God allows natural disasters or pandemics? Have you ever asked such questions of God? What were you feeling when you asked or wondered about such things? After meditating on these ideas, write your thoughts here.

Wednesday, April 29

Read Habakkuk 1:5-11. This is God's first response to Habakkuk's questions and accusations. You may want to read the rest of Chapter 1 of Habakkuk; it's only 17 verses long. You can begin to see the conversation between Habakkuk and God. God's response indicates that he is going to do away with the injustice and corruption of Habakkuk's people by bringing in an occupying force to humble them. Things will get worse before getting better! That is not uncommon when we experience challenges in life; things do get worse before getting better. That has certainly been part of what we hear when talking about Covid-19. What are your thoughts? Record them here.