

Bringing Injustice Before God

Pt. 2

Habakkuk 1:2-4, Wednesday, January 3, 2024

Bringing Injustice Before God Pt. 2 Habakkuk 1:2-4

THEME: The Path of Faith in the Providence of God

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THEME: The Path of Faith in the Providence of God

What do you think should be the **posture** we take Before God Pt. 2 in the face of injustice, doubts, fears, and lack of hope?

1. Come Before God Pt. 2 honestly and humbly.
2. Come seeking to submit to God's Word, but make connections to your life with careful precision.
3. Avoid the easy route of venting and taking apart. Come prepared to do the hard work to build up your faith.
4. Look for areas to meditate and worship.

Bringing Injustice Before God Pt. 2

Habakkuk 1:2-4

- I. I went to the right place with injustice, but there is no action.

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Habakkuk 1:2-4

O God, why have You rejected us forever? Why does Your anger smoke against the sheep of Your pasture?

Psalm 74:1

How long, O LORD? Will You forget me forever? How long will You hide Your face from me? 2 How long shall I take counsel in my soul, Having sorrow in my heart all the day? How long will my enemy be exalted over me? 3 Consider and answer me, O LORD my God; Enlighten my eyes, or I will sleep the sleep of death,

Psalm 13:1–3

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Habakkuk 1:2-4

They slaughtered the sons of Zedekiah before his eyes, then put out the eyes of Zedekiah and bound him with bronze fetters and brought him to Babylon.

2 Kings 25:7

“Behold, I cry, ‘Violence!’ but I get no answer; I shout for help, but there is no justice. 8 “He has walled up my way so that I cannot pass, And He has put darkness on my paths.

Job 19:7–8

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Habakkuk 1:2-4

Indeed, there was also a man who prophesied in the name of the LORD, Uriah the son of Shemaiah from Kiriath-jearim; and he prophesied against this city and against this land words similar to all those of Jeremiah. 21 When King Jehoiakim and all his mighty men and all the officials heard his words, then the king sought to put him to death; but Uriah heard it, and he was afraid and fled and went to Egypt. 22 Then King Jehoiakim sent men to Egypt: Elnathan the son of Achbor and certain men with him went into Egypt. 23 And they brought Uriah from Egypt and led him to King Jehoiakim, who slew him with a sword and cast his dead body into the burial place of the common people.

Jeremiah 26:20–23

What happens to our prayer life (or fights against it) in the face of these questions? **What does this reveal about our prayer life/relationship with God?**

Prayer Life:

- Irreverence creeps in
- Discouragement grows
- Inconsistent and lack of perseverance with specific prayers
- Stop living and praying inside of God's words (other words speaking louder)
- God's will becomes vague and uncertain therefore lack of confidence in prayer (not confident before Him)
- Take things into our own hands (because so large and God's not doing anything)
- Our suffering becomes our righteousness (justifies us)

Relationship with God:

- Need answers that make sense or that we can't hear
- Are you reverent? (belief and obedience go together) Continuing to return shows we believe this is part of the process. Faith that perseveres.
- We choose another God to follow (when not get my answer) Not the God of the Bible (emotions and lack of consistency reveal)
- Lack of perseverance, no long-term vision of what God is doing, but what I'd like in this life
- Comfortable with what is instead of continued groaning (for wrongs of people of God)

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Habakkuk 1:2-4

Now He was telling them a parable to show that at all times they ought to pray and not to lose heart, 2 saying, “In a certain city there was a judge who did not fear God and did not respect man. 3 “There was a widow in that city, and she kept coming to him, saying, ‘Give me legal protection from my opponent.’ 4 “For a while he was unwilling; but afterward he said to himself, ‘Even though I do not fear God nor respect man, 5 yet because this widow bothers me, I will give her legal protection, otherwise by continually coming she will wear me out.’ ” 6 And the Lord said, “Hear what the unrighteous judge said; 7 now, will not God bring about justice for His elect who cry to Him day and night, and will He delay long over them? 8 “I tell you that He will bring about justice for them quickly. However, when the Son of Man comes, will He find faith on the earth?”

Luke 18:1–8

How would you sum up Luke 18:1-8's call to prayer and what parallels do you see with our situation in Habakkuk?

- Will we wait for and trust God's just and righteous care and action for His people? (look for and expect Him to act)
- Perseverance and faith, He will come through with what He has promised
- Our faith is shallow and dishonoring to God when so quick to flounder when subconscious expectations stop obedience and prayer
- Know where to get help, where help comes from, growing dependence on God by active going to Him as He has called us to and help each other to turn to Him
- Trusting God is working when seems not
- Perseverance (not backing down) letting Him define the timing
- Prayer continues over/through discouragement
- Convinced about what asking for
- Confident asking right person – how much more God...
- Prayer front/center in relationship/emotion
- Justice always comes finally from God
- Describes Key component of faith

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Habakkuk 1:2-4

It came about on the seventh day that some of the people went out to gather, but they found none. 28 Then the LORD said to Moses, “How long do you refuse to keep My commandments and My instructions? Exodus 16:27–28

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“Only do not rebel against the LORD; and do not fear the people of the land, for they will be our prey. Their protection has been removed from them, and the LORD is with us; do not fear them.” 10 But all the congregation said to stone them with stones. Then the glory of the LORD appeared in the tent of meeting to all the sons of Israel. 11 The LORD said to Moses, “How long will this people spurn Me? And how long will they not believe in Me, despite all the signs which I have performed in their midst? Numbers 14:9–11

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And Jesus answered and said, “You unbelieving and perverted generation, how long shall I be with you? How long shall I put up with you? Bring him here to Me.” Matthew 17:17

What should THESE “How long” passages do for us?

- Not let circumstances determine God's help
- Look at ourselves before blame God – see the arrogance of complain loudly while refusing to listen/obey God
- There's limited time to respond to God
- Enough evidence/signs from God – cry for wisdom/seek

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Habakkuk 1:2-4

“Then you will cry out in that day because of your king whom you have chosen for yourselves, but the LORD will not answer you in that day.”

1 Samuel 8:18

Behold, the LORD'S hand is not so short That it cannot save; Nor is His ear so dull That it cannot hear. 2 But your iniquities have made a separation between you and your God, And your sins have hidden His face from you so that He does not hear.

Isaiah 59:1–2

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Habakkuk 1:2-4

and they cried out with a loud voice, saying, “How long, O Lord, holy and true, will You refrain from judging and avenging our blood on those who dwell on the earth?”

Revelation 6:10

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Habakkuk 1:2-4

- I. I went to the right place with injustice, but there is no action.
- II. Because of Your inaction, wickedness proliferates.

What do we naturally DO when we see strife/contention/conflicting wills?

- Take sides
- Run
- React
- Be discouraged
- Try to make peace
- Try to inflict harm
- Angry
- Protect/vindicate myself

What do we naturally DO when we see strife/contention/conflicting wills? Why? What motivations/goals/fears are involved? Why is it important to evaluate what is behind what we do in these situations?

- Lift up what think is right/ put down wrong
- Protect/safety
- Often don't go deep enough to reveal true heart – often not concerned with fearing God & seeing His value

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Habakkuk 1:2-4

“He has not observed **misfortune** in Jacob; Nor has He seen **trouble** in Israel; The LORD his God is with him, And the shout of a king is among them.

Numbers 23:21

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Habakkuk 1:2-4

The beginning of **strife** is like letting out water, So abandon the **quarrel** before it breaks out.

Proverbs 17:14

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If you are numb to injustices, escape because too big or afraid won't do it right, you are part of the problem, **but what does an eternal perspective on wickedness spreading around you and righting wrongs also include?**

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Habakkuk 1:2-4

But because of your stubbornness and unrepentant heart you are storing up wrath for yourself in the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God,

Romans 2:5

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Habakkuk 1:2-4

Come now, you rich, weep and howl for your miseries which are coming upon you. 2 Your riches have rotted and your garments have become moth-eaten. 3 Your gold and your silver have rusted; and their rust will be a witness against you and will consume your flesh like fire. It is in the last days that you have stored up your treasure! 4 Behold, the pay of the laborers who mowed your fields, and which has been withheld by you, cries out against you; and the outcry of those who did the harvesting has reached the ears of the Lord of Sabaoth. 5 You have lived luxuriously on the earth and led a life of wanton pleasure; you have fattened your hearts in a day of slaughter. 6 You have condemned and put to death the righteous man; he does not resist you. James 5:1-6

New American Standard Bible : 1995 update. 1995. LaHabra, CA: The Lockman Foundation.

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Habakkuk 1:2-4

Therefore be patient, brethren, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious produce of the soil, being patient about it, until it gets the early and late rains. 8 You too be patient; strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. 9 Do not complain, brethren, against one another, so that you yourselves may not be judged; behold, the Judge is standing right at the door. 10 As an example, brethren, of suffering and patience, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. 11 We count those blessed who endured. You have heard of the endurance of Job and have seen the outcome of the Lord's dealings, that the Lord is full of compassion and is merciful.

James 1:7-11

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Habakkuk 1:2-4

“But it shall come about, if you do not obey the LORD your God, to observe to do all His commandments and His statutes with which I charge you today, that all these curses will come upon you and overtake you: **29 and you will grope at noon, as the blind man gropes in darkness, and you will not prosper in your ways; but you shall only be oppressed and robbed continually, with none to save you.**

Deuteronomy 28:15, 29

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- II. Because of Your inaction, wickedness proliferates.
- III. It has infiltrated even the institutions set up to bring justice.

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How does the law get ignored? What would “justice never upheld” imply?

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Habakkuk 1:2-4

“Now, Israel, what does the LORD your God require from you, but to fear the LORD your God, to walk in all His ways and love Him, and to serve the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul, 13 and to keep the LORD’S commandments and His statutes which I am commanding you today for your good?

Deuteronomy 10:12–13

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Where do we feel the pressure to uphold God's Law, to carry out His will righteously? How does this pressure work?

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We don't like the results of God's law being ignored, justice coming out perverted, the wicked surrounding the righteous, and justice coming out perverted, so what are our options? (not just right ones—how do we respond, where do we focus?)

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What would the process of putting God's Word/law in its rightful place in our own lives and then in the lives of God's people include?

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But one who looks intently at the perfect law, the law of liberty, and abides by it, not having become a forgetful hearer but an effectual doer, this man will be blessed in what he does.

James 1:25

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A mature faith is one that both sees the issues at hand and yet remains steadfast, living in light of God's providence.