

The Work of Faith Pt. 10

Habakkuk 1:12-2:5, Wednesday, June 5, 2024

The Work of Faith Pt. 10

Habakkuk 1:12-2:5

- I. Includes Examining the Object of Your Faith in Light of Current Circumstances. Vv. 12-17**

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Habakkuk 1:12-2:5

“Habakkuk has two alternatives now. ‘ He can allow his doubts to be either destructive or creative. **He can use his doubts, struggles, and agonizing questions to turn from God and to renounce his faith. Or he can keep his hold on God, trusting him for an answer.’”**

J. N. Boo Heflin in Waylon Bailey NAC Commentary

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Habakkuk 1:12-2:5

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- II. Includes Preparation for a Response from God 2:1

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Habakkuk 1:12-2:5

Habakkuk “revealed a **mature wisdom** in **his determination that this response be shaped by what God himself would say. It is a wise man who takes his questions about God to God for the answers.**”

Carl E. Amerding *EBC*

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Habakkuk 1:12-2:5

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- II. Includes Preparation for a Response from God 2:1
- III. Includes Responding to His Word with Willing Obedience 2:2-3
 - A. Your obedience to God's Word affects other's faithfulness to God's Word both now and in the future.

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Habakkuk 1:12-2:5

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- II. Includes Preparation for a Response from God 2:1
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 - A. Your obedience to God's Word affects other's faithfulness to God's Word both now and in the future.
 - B. Your obedience includes waiting with expectancy and continued obedience.

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- IV. Perseveres Based on the Gaze of the Soul. 2:4-5

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 - A. The Proud One

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 - A. The Proud One

If we would heed the message and continue with Habakkuk in the work of faith in God, what subtle roots of “the proud one” must we identify, confess, and eradicate?

- Watch lack of care for those around you
- Trust that God is more than enough – how would we expose whether we believe, God is more than enough? root out “must have” “if only”, independence self-sufficiency, protecting ourselves
- Don't be wrongly introspective but think about your thinking (what are assumptions behind your thought process, success, confidence, discouragement, failure)
- Easy when tired to lose dependence on God
- Watch sense of disgust arising from distancing ourselves from people who _____
- When you are greater than those around you, easy to think just superior or that gods are on our side, then both sides can feel unstoppable – roots are found in all that was out of your control to bring about these “unstoppable circumstances”
- There is One who is greater/over who orchestrates
- Watch how we define life & death – sometimes life comes through what feels like death – don't waste “hard times” as opportunity for refined faith

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Habakkuk 1:12-2:5

For I determined to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ, and Him crucified. 3 I was with you in weakness and in fear and in much trembling, 4 and my message and my preaching were not in persuasive words of wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, **5 so that your faith would not rest on the wisdom of men, but on the power of God.**

1 Corinthians 2:2–5

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Habakkuk 1:12-2:5

And He also told this parable **to some people who trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and viewed others with contempt:** 10 “Two men went up into the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. 11 “The Pharisee stood and was praying this to himself: ‘God, **I thank You that I am not like other people:** swindlers, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. 12 **‘I fast twice a week; I pay tithes of all that I get.’** 13 “But the tax collector, standing some distance away, was even unwilling to lift up his eyes to heaven, but was beating his breast, saying, **‘God, be merciful to me, the sinner!’** 14 **“I tell you, this man went to his house justified rather than the other;** for everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but he who humbles himself will be exalted.” Luke 18:9–14

Can you pick out a couple of right/wrong assumptions from Luke 18:9-14—roots that reveal the gaze of the heart

- Standing before God based on comparison with other's acts—looking at yourself with +/-
- Possible to be successful economically + morally and waste these blessings in service to God
- First one assumed position before God based on something inside Himself instead of on something from God making us dependent on His character (mercy)
- To see God is to be unworthy vs. to get our worth from those around us
- Went to temple with assets—telling God what He has done vs. I need help from God
- Watch lack of compassion for “stupid”
- By saying to himself inaccurate things about his standing, kept him from ministering to others (keep others from entering Kingdom of God)
- God cared about keeping low but neglected most important
- Collector knew enough of character and promise of God that could get help/hope by turning to God

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The case put forward in the Bible is that pride of intellect is, in a sense, the ultimate sin. This is the primary trouble that leads to all the others: men and women glorying in themselves, glorying especially in their intellect and their mind. In 1 Corinthians the apostle Paul explains how this becomes the ultimate sin. It is because men and women misappropriate God's greatest gift. **God complimented human beings by making them in his own image, and he gave them this astounding gift. But this is the very thing that they use against God and for themselves, and so bring themselves down.**

Martyn Lloyd-Jones, "Humanism—The Fifth Woe"

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Habakkuk 1:12-2:5

What else is it but to blaspheme and defy the lofty majesty of God when he prays and says, “I thank you, God, that I am so holy and good, that I never need your grace, but I find so much in myself that I have kept the law. And you cannot accuse me of anything, and I have deserved so much, that you are bound to repay and reward me again for it in time and in eternity, if you would keep your own honor, and be a just and truthful God.” Now, since he sins so monstrously against the first and highest commandment, we must conclude that he does not honestly and from the heart observe any of the other commandments.

Martin Luther, Sermons, vol. 4, “Eleventh Sunday after Trinity”

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Habakkuk 1:12-2:5

Man is very apt to rest and dote upon his own worth and to build all his acceptance with God upon it—to come to God and challenge him for a debt, as the Pharisee did. It is very natural to rest in those duties and make them an excuse for other things.

Thomas Manton, *A Practical Exposition of the Lord's Prayer*

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Habakkuk 1:12-2:5

To be at present in a state of condemnation is cause sufficient for men to come to Jesus Christ for life. But that will not do except the cause moves them, which it will never do until their eyes are opened to see themselves in that condition. **For it is not a man's being under wrath but his seeing it that moves him to come to Jesus Christ. Alas! All men by sin are under wrath, yet but few of that all come to Jesus Christ. And the reason is that they do not see their condition.** (John Bunyan, Come and Welcome to Jesus Christ)

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How does it happen so contrary, that the Pharisee is condemned of God and the publican is justified? **Will God now speak and decide against his own law, which justly prefers those who live according to it to those who live opposed to it in open sin?** Or does God delight in those who do no good and are nothing but robbers, adulterers, and unjust? **By no means, but we have here quite another and higher law than the world or flesh and blood understand, which looks deeper into the hearts of both these persons and finds in the Pharisee a great evil principle that destroys all that otherwise might be called good, to trust in self and despise others.**

Martin Luther, Sermons, vol. 4, "Eleventh Sunday after Trinity"

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Habakkuk 1:12-2:5

“All, then, who indulge themselves in their own counsels, deserve to be forsaken by God, and to be left by him to be driven up and down, and here and there, by Satan; for the only unfailing security for the faithful is to acquiesce in God’s word.”

John Calvin

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“Those who see only the short term always miss the significance of the work of God.” Waylon Bailey

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

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 - A. The Proud One
 - B. The Righteous One

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“So central to the whole of Jewish thought was Habakkuk 2:4b that the Talmud records this famous remark made by Rabbi Simlai: ‘Moses gave Israel 613 commandments, David reduced them to 11 (Ps. 15), Micah to 3 (Mic. 6:8), Isaiah to 2 (Is. 56:1), but Habakkuk to 1—‘the righteous shall live by his faith.’”

Walter Kaiser

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 1. Lives by faith

Where have we seen evidence of faith and its roots in Habakkuk to this point?

- Though struggles tremendously, goes to God and waits for God
- Trusts God with his questions (open in face of uncertainty)
- VV.12-13 – relies on God's attributes and promises
- Chapter 1- calls for long time without seeing a response
- Evidence that kept God in his place above so could continue even in turmoil

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Habakkuk 1:12-2:5

Then he believed in the LORD; and He reckoned it to him as righteousness.
Genesis 15:6

For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, "BUT THE RIGHTEOUS man SHALL LIVE BY FAITH."

Romans 1:17

Now that no one is justified by the Law before God is evident; for, "THE RIGHTEOUS MAN SHALL LIVE BY FAITH."

Galatians 3:11

38 BUT MY RIGHTEOUS ONE SHALL LIVE BY FAITH; AND IF HE SHRINKS BACK, MY SOUL HAS NO PLEASURE IN HIM.

Hebrews 10:38

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 1. Lives by faith
 2. In the God of Righteousness

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Habakkuk 1:12-2:5

The LORD is righteous in all His ways And kind in all His deeds.

Psalm 145:17

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Habakkuk 1:12-2:5

“that faith which strips us of all arrogance, and leads us naked and needy to God, that we may seek salvation from him alone, which would otherwise be far removed from us”

John Calvin

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