

Lessons from Wisdom's Taunt

Habakkuk 2:6-8, Wednesday, July 10, 2024

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Habakkuk 2:6-8

“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: 36 “The LORD will bring you and your king, whom you set over you, to a nation which neither you nor your fathers have known, and there you shall serve other gods, wood and stone. **37 “You shall become a horror, a proverb, and a taunt among all the people where the LORD drives you.**

Deuteronomy 28:15, 36-37

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“But if you or your sons indeed turn away from following Me, and do not keep My commandments and My statutes which I have set before you, and go and serve other gods and worship them, 7 then I will cut off Israel from the land which I have given them, and the house which I have consecrated for My name, I will cast out of My sight. **So Israel will become a proverb and a byword among all peoples.**

1 Kings 9:6–7

What is the heart of this crime? What mobilizes this heart? Where does our desire to “have” negatively affect our relationships?

- Eyes that aren't satisfied (perhaps both sides)
- I deserve it
- Normal
- Take what want so more problems to get out of mess
- Moral (right/wrong) reasons to justify their acquisitions which separates relationships
- Opposite of Jesus in Phil. 2 serving at His expense
- When something is great on your mind (desire for more), everything else is smaller (caring for others, satisfying others)

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He who increases his wealth by interest and usury Gathers it for him who is gracious to the poor.

Proverbs 28:8

He who oppresses the poor to make more for himself Or who gives to the rich, will only come to poverty.

Proverbs 22:16

Wealth obtained by fraud dwindles, But the one who gathers by labor increases it.

Proverbs 13:11

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Therefore his calamity will come **suddenly**; Instantly he will be broken and there will be no healing.

Proverbs 6:15

A man who hardens his neck after much reproof Will **suddenly** be broken beyond remedy.

Proverbs 29:1

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I. Don't Be Like the Chaldeans. Don't Gain at Another's Expense.

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“Though everyone says this as to others, yet no one as to himself. Let us therefore take heed that, when we reprove injustice in others, we come without delay to ourselves, and be impartial judges. Self-love so blinds us, that we seek to absolve ourselves from that fault which we freely condemn in others. **In general things men are always more correct in their judgment, that is, in matters in which they themselves are not concerned; but as soon as they come to themselves, they become blind, and all rectitude vanishes, and all judgment is gone.**” “Had they been contented with some moderate portion, **they might have lived cheerfully and happily, as we see to be the case with all the godly; who though they possess but little, are yet cheerful, for they live in hope, and know that their supplies are in God's hand, and expect everything from his blessing.** Hence then, their cheerfulness, because they have no anxious fears. **But they who inebriate themselves with riches, find that they carry a useless burden, under which they lie down, as it were, sunk and buried.**” John Calvin

What sobers you as you hear this proverb/taunt against Babylon?

- Can only manipulate & control for so long before justice comes
- Nothing hidden that won't be revealed
- Think through our justifications (watch our emotions)
- Subtly slip into doing this ourselves (think through path that leads here)
- By not serving God's purposes, we put expectations on Him & others—trample on what God values
- These actions don't tend to go unnoticed

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For after all it is only just for God to repay with affliction those who afflict you, 7 and to give relief to you who are afflicted and to us as well when the Lord Jesus will be revealed from heaven with His mighty angels in flaming fire, 8 **dealing out retribution to those who do not know God and to those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. 9 These will pay the penalty of eternal destruction,** away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power, 10 when He comes to be glorified in His saints on that day, **and to be marveled at among all who have believed**—for our testimony to you was believed.

2 Thessalonians 1:6–10

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“Then summoning him, his lord said to him, ‘You wicked slave, I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. 33 **‘Should you not also have had mercy on your fellow slave, in the same way that I had mercy on you?’** 34 **“And his lord, moved with anger, handed him over to the torturers until he should repay all that was owed him.** 35 “My heavenly Father will also do the same to you, if each of you does not forgive his brother from your heart.”

Matthew 18:32–35

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The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance. **10 But the day of the Lord will come like a thief,** in which the heavens will pass away with a roar and the elements will be destroyed with intense heat, and the earth and its works will be burned up. **11** Since all these things are to be destroyed in this way, what sort of people ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness,

2 Peter 3:9-11

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For where **jealousy and selfish ambition exist**, there is **disorder** and **every evil thing**.

James 3:16

But if you bite and devour one another, **take care that you are not consumed** by one another.

Galatians 5:15

“Do not judge so that you will not be judged. 2 **“For in the way you judge, you will be judged; and by your standard of measure, it will be measured to you.**

Matthew 7:1–2

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Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, this he will also reap. 8 For the one who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption, but the one who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life. 9 Let us not lose heart in doing good, for in due time we will reap if we do not grow weary. 10 So then, while we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, and especially to those who are of the household of the faith.

Galatians 6:7–10