

Message Meditation

February 22, 2015

Text: Habakkuk

Message Meditation: A Conversation with God

1. Habakkuk Chapter 1.
 - a. Habakkuk's first question for God: *Why does God tolerate wrong? Why doesn't He do something?*
 - b. God's first reply: *God is permitting the wicked to carry out their wickedness unrestrained.*
 - c. Habakkuk's second question for God: *How long before God, Who is holy, righteous and pure, judges the wicked and implements justice and righteousness?*
2. Habakkuk Chapter 2.
 - a. God's second reply: The people who are committed to doing what is wicked should be upright and committed to doing good. They are responsible for their behavior and accountable to God for their actions. They will experience God's justice. What they have done will be turned upon their own heads. God will do what is right.
 - b. The wicked will experience woe.
3. Habakkuk Chapter 3
 - a. Habakkuk is silent before God (2:20); remembers God (v.2); stands in awe of God and His deeds (v.2); request that the awesome acts of God be repeated in his day (v.2); recounts God's past judgments of the wicked and past deliverances of His people (v.3-15); waits patiently for God to do justice (v.16); and declares his confident faith in God (v.16-19).
4. Habakkuk goes from questions for God (chapter 1) to worshipping God (chapter 3). Habakkuk –
 - i. (a) talked to God (chapters 1-3);
 - ii. (b) waited on God to answer prayer and to do right (2:1; 3:16);
 - iii. (c) remembered God (3:1-15); and
 - iv. (d) rested in God (3:17-19). His deepened faith in God established his peace.
5. Lessons from God's Word:
 - a. So great is God's sovereignty that even the wicked serve Him while He carries out His judgment on them.
 - i. The fruit of wickedness is its own judgment in the immediate.
 - ii. Ultimately, God judges unrepentant sinners for the wickedness of their way.
 - b. There is a great difference between God's discipline and God's judgment.
 - i. God disciplines those who believe in Him – for their good, so they might share in His holiness.
 - ii. God judgment is upon those who refuse to believe. Not for discipline – but to carry out justice for wrongdoing.

Message Application:

1. Habakkuk ask God great questions. What questions do you have for God?
2. God had answers for Habakkuk's great questions. Those answers expanded Habakkuk's knowledge of God and faith in Him. How might God's answers to your questions expand your knowledge and faith in Him?

Are you prepared to have your mind renewed with answers that God gives from His revelation?

3. Habakkuk is honest with God with the questions of his heart. Do you have the same freedom? Is it irreverent to be honest with God? Is it irreverent to be dishonest with God? How can we be both honest and reverent in our prayers?
4. Habakkuk was willing to wait on God for answers to prayer (2:1), and for God to do justice (3:16). How does the development of faith and patience go together?
5. The unrepentant wicked will experience God's judgment for their wrong. In the immediate, however, the fruit of their own wickedness becomes its own judgment. How should this influence our view of what we perceive as the flourishing of the wicked?