

Sermon Discussion

14 June 2020

Read Habakkuk 1:12-2:20 together

Starting Off

Have each person in the group briefly share their best and worst moments from the previous week. If a group member needs additional time to talk through a low moment they are experiencing, be intentional to listen to and care for this person.

Dig Deeper

The virtue of patience is one that many people assume they either innately have or don't have. But the Bible teaches something different. For followers of Jesus, patience is produced in each of us by the work of the Holy Spirit and can be developed as we act in accordance with the Spirit (see Galatians 5:22,25).

1. Read James 4:14-15. How likely are you to experience feelings of anger, worry, or even despair when things go wrong or happen that are outside of your control? Why do you think that is? What might it look like for you to grow in humility?
2. Read Romans 5:3-5. How do you sense that God may be using this season to strengthen your endurance and character? What steps have you already taken or can you begin taking to grow in alignment with who God is calling you to be?
3. Now more than ever, why is it so hard to wait on God? What does it look like to "hear from God" since we can't hear him like Habakkuk could? What helps you personally to wait on him?
4. Understanding to live by faith is hard. Why does faith seem so abstract to us for daily life? What images are helpful for you to understand and apply what faith is? What things seem to require the most "faith" from you in life right now?

Application & Prayer

The Book of Psalms has a lot to say about our response to suffering. In fact, over half of the 150 Psalms are classified as "lament" psalms because they express concern or sorrow over a difficult situation the author is facing. Each lament psalm has at least three similar elements- description of the present need or situation, a call for help, and a commitment to praise God despite the circumstance.

Because of this structure, these psalms provide a great model for us on how to pray when we're suffering due to difficult circumstances. In light of what we're all currently going through with COVID-19, jot down one or two thoughts about yourself or others under each of the elements.

- a) Description of a present need (How is this situation affecting you or others?)
- b) Call of help (What would you like God to do for you or others?)
- c) Commitment to praise (What is true about God that you can praise Him for?)
- d) Reflection on who God is (What aspects of God's character are important to you during this season?)

Now use those thoughts to express your own lament prayer to God.

- Ask God for the grace to wait on Him, even when we are tempted to stop waiting and start running to other things.
- Ask God for a renewed appreciation for Jesus taking the wrath of God in your place.