

HOPE IN THE DARK

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION

The private diary of a confused preacher

Week of 5.4.20

- Have there been other calamities that caught you by surprise? How did you react?

The oracle that Habakkuk the prophet saw.

²O LORD, how long shall I cry for help,
and you will not hear?

Or cry to you "Violence!"
and you will not save?

³Why do you make me see iniquity,
and why do you idly look at wrong?
Destruction and violence are before me;
strife and contention arise.

⁴So the law is paralyzed,
and justice never goes forth.
For the wicked surround the righteous;
so justice goes forth perverted.

⁵"Look among the nations, and see;
wonder and be astounded.

For I am doing a work in your days
that you would not believe if told.

⁶For behold, I am raising up the Chaldeans,
that bitter and hasty nation,
who march through the breadth of the earth,
to seize dwellings not their own.

⁷They are dreaded and fearsome;
their justice and dignity go forth from themselves.

⁸ Their horses are swifter than leopards,
more fierce than the evening wolves;
their horsemen press proudly on.

Their horsemen come from afar;
they fly like an eagle swift to devour.

⁹ They all come for violence,
all their faces forward.
They gather captives like sand.

¹⁰ At kings they scoff,
and at rulers they laugh.
They laugh at every fortress,
for they pile up earth and take it.

¹¹ Then they sweep by like the wind and go on,
guilty men, whose own might is their god!"

Habakkuk 1:1-11

BIG IDEA: God is our safe room: pour your heart out, put your trust in.

- Randy emphasized that we should 'praise the Lord and not curse the Lord.' In what ways does Habakkuk teach us to do that?
- In what ways do you feel, like the prophet Habakkuk, that God is idle during this time of global calamity? During your own personal time of calamity?
- Sometimes God uses toxic evil to purge evil. He used Babylon as chemotherapy to kill the cancer of sin in his people. Has God ever done that in your life? How did you respond?
- What idols might be in your life? What are you asking of other things that you should be asking of God?
- Read Habakkuk 3:17-19. Can you say that, or even sing that in your calamity? What will it take for you to be able to do this?
- Read Matthew 6:25-34. As you struggle with worrying and trusting God do you need to come back in your mind to the last sentence of that section, "Sufficient for the day is its own trouble?" What will it take for you to trust God each day with your worries?