



Habakkuk – When Faith Gets Real

Wk. 2 “Waiting”

By Pastor Jody May

Habakkuk 2:1-5 ESV

¹ I will take my stand at my watchpost
and station myself on the tower,
and look out to see what he will say to me,
and what I will answer concerning my complaint.

The Righteous Shall Live by His Faith

² And the Lord answered me:

“Write the vision;
make it plain on tablets,
so he may run who reads it.

³ For still the vision awaits its appointed time;
it hastens to the end—it will not lie.

If it seems slow, wait for it;
it will surely come; it will not delay.

⁴ “Behold, his soul is puffed up; it is not upright within him,
but the righteous shall live by his faith.

⁵ “Moreover, wine is a traitor,
an arrogant man who is never at rest.

His greed is as wide as Sheol;
like death he has never enough.

He gathers for himself all nations
and collects as his own all peoples.”

Intro:

Wk. 1 Was the Hard Truth, God is going to **allow bad events and people** to run its’ course in this world, because He uses these things to glorify Himself, as He used the devil’s wicked schemes against Job not to just bless Job in his day but in the retelling of that story for nearly 5K years. It is a part of God’s Saving Story, in this world **He uses both the good and the bad** to unite all things in Christ. (Eph. 1:10)



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Last week we came to the conclusion, as Habakkuk did, that the only thing we can do is to Accept, Reflect, and Lament. Lamenting understands and grieves the Hard Truth, when necessary, and confirms in our hearts that there is nowhere else to turn to but God, and we **cling to Him**. It is not until we lament are we able to help others like ourselves that need to hear the message that Jesus is the way through this.

This week though as COVID 19 bloomed bigger, the restrictions got tighter, and the pressure turned up a little I guess I was not handling it as well as I could. This became clear to me on Weds when in the afternoon I was pulled over by our good first responders. *Illustration of my SPEEDING!*

Perhaps you are finding your patience running on the empty line as well. **Patience seems to fly out the window whenever stress goes up and emotional demands don't desist.** It is like the guiderails begin to come off of your behavior. Perhaps your online shopping has gone up not because you can't get out but because it makes you feel better to buy that thing you need. Perhaps you indulge in the extra desert because you feel like your owed. Streaming movies now bothers you even though it has no commercials because they run on so long. Perhaps you are sleeping more because it is keeping you from dealing with what is going on around you.

But as the book of Habakkuk shows us today, Patience, while it may be hard to get a handle on, is not supposed to fly out the window when there are disruptions to your life. Habakkuk shows us today an essential doctrine of the church that requires PATIENCE, it's called **“Waiting on the Lord”**. Have you ever heard someone say that? I'm just waiting on the Lord. What does that even look like? Waiting on the Lord is a real thing though and when you don't embrace it puts you and me on the wrong side because it automatically takes from God's hands the right to do what He wants. **(child that does not want to sit in time out)**



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Patience is exactly what you are supposed to step into, when a crisis occurs. Faith gets Real when Patience is no longer a dirty word in our minds, but it has become a reality for our Waiting on God.

1. How to endure when Faith starts getting Real – through Patience.

³ For still the vision awaits its appointed time;
it hastens to the end—it will not lie.
If it seems slow, wait for it;
it will surely come; it will not delay.

This scripture right on the front end brings me some relief, “*the vision awaits its appointed time*”. That means **things are not chaotic**, all is not left to chance, all circumstances wait on God, the time that was appointed for them to occur. That means in the end of the verse, “*if it seems slow, wait for it*” God is declaring to us to Wait on Him, this future that Habakkuk is seeing will come about for it is by His hand. Habakkuk has to do **what does not come naturally to humans**, he has to be patient.

God’s people have always had a problem with patience. Earliest examples: Abraham took Hagar as a wife instead of **waiting** on Sarah to get pregnant. Hebrews leaving Egypt wanted golden calves immediately to worship when Moses left them for 40 days. They wanted a King to be like everyone else instead of waiting on the Lord to be their King. All over the OT you **will see a people that constantly run into rebellion** because they refused to *Wait on the Lord*.

In all of that God was still Gracious and Steadfast for He neither abandoned them nor did He wipe them all out when He could. Instead He used their rebellion to set up the Kingdom of Israel, to begin a human line of Kings, by which He would send His Son into to fulfill all the covenantal promises to ensure Salvation for His people.

TODAY, many of us just throw our hands up and are like, “**well I’m just not a patient person.**” It’s like you believe that it is a part of the **genetic code** and it’s not your fault that you think you can’t do it. **Here’s some Truth** for us all this



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morning, Patience is an **act of humility**, that means **it is a choice**, one must choose to do it, it is not something you are born with.

What does being IMPATIENT mean? Impatience, not waiting on the Lord, means we believe we are omniscient - not God - because we know better than Him how things work. Impatience means I don't think God has the ability to do what needs to be done. Impatience means I believe that God doesn't love me enough to take care of me in the perfect way. Impatience drives me to desperation, tiredness, and exasperation.

But when we Wait on the Lord, when we practice patience, it leads us to a great outcome, no matter what the earthly circumstances are.

James 1:2-4 ESV

²Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, ³for you know that **the testing of your faith** produces steadfastness. ⁴And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.

v.3 *testing of your faith* – **Practicing Waiting on the Lord/developing patience** = produces steadfastness. You become immovable in your Spirit like God, and over time your ability not to be shaken, will make you complete, lacking for nothing. That means in the book of James **you will have what it takes to get you to your eternal destination**, James says count that as JOY! It seems here we have the task today to change our cognitions, our thoughts, and stop looking at Patience as a dirty Word, and embrace it as a way to attain true Joy. Let's look at Habakkuk how he embraced it when His Faith was getting Real!

2. Waiting Patiently on the Lord needs two things from us:

a. Perspective

¹I will take my stand at my watchpost and station myself on the tower,



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and look out to see what he will say to me,
and what I will answer concerning my complaint.

Habakkuk is first standing at the watchpost, that means **the tallest tower in the city**. It is a place where ones would look at over vast distances to get the headlines. If you see an invading force you would be able to warn, discern the size of the army, determine their supply lines, and would be able to size up your threat. It was also the place where one could see help coming from those neighbors that you signaled for help.

It is from this advantage point that one can gain perspective. The person that is in the watchtower may be the only person that knows whether it is time to panic or not. The challenge is that as we wait on the Lord to do His work, is that do we let what we see on the horizon scare us into believing that there is only bad news ahead for us? **Listen to this person’s perspective after going through some trials himself.**

Romans 8:18 ESV

¹⁸ For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us.

Paul had a great perspective on life. Here was a guy that was brought up believing the better you lived the cushier your life was going to be. That all got turned upside down when he met Jesus. He learned the truth about trials because he had gained some perspective. The trials of our current times are nothing when compared to what God will do to the world and us.

God was going to remake all of creation v.22 AND God was going to redeem our bodies (1 Cor 15) v.23.

He also made this interesting comment:

²¹ that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to corruption and obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. ²² For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now.



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Through gaining perspective Paul compares for us that creation is going through childbirth, and it is painful. My friend, Jared Chambers, shared with me this insight, that labor pains increase the closer to the birthing event we get to. If this picture is accurate then we are to expect that prior to Jesus return that there will be **times of groaning that will increase** my friends. This is a “*wake-up call*” to us that we have got to gain some perspective or like chicken little every time something happens we will think it’s our doom instead of signs of our future Salvation because Jesus **IS** closer to returning every day!

b. Obedience

Habakkuk said that he “*will station himself to the tower*”. This is military language, this a duty to be performed. Habakkuk sees that his oversight is not to abandon God’s vision, not to run away from what was about to happen. As the prophet for God and His people, Hab sees his job as being the guy to receive the answer for his visions and laments. Let me just point out to take a watch on the tower, what do you think would be his punishment if he left? Waiting on the Lord requires us to see it not as a request but a mandatory obligation.

I want to speak to those of you out there who have been hearing on social media or through communication lines in the church **what a great time of reconnecting with God and with families** this has been. Some of you have been hearing this and you have been feeling a little guilty because maybe this has had an opposite effect on you. Instead of driving you deeper into your faith as it is getting real it has made you more apathetic about it.

Now let me include all of us, because most of us will experience in the long run of this COVID10 pandemic is that your newfound spirituality will most likely wane. Why, because **up to this point it has been driven by emotion**, but what happens when you get tired of waiting on God? Let me just offer here before giving the bigger answer to this dilemma is that if we view this as a shared duty as people of God, here’s how we can handle this learning how to wait thing a little better:

Hebrews 10:24-25 ESV



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²⁴ And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, ²⁵ not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some,

We are to rely on each other right now, to encourage each other, patience is not something that is going to grow in your life without a little encouragement from one another. And since we can't meet right now in person then we all need to learn how to talk again in person, write letters, and make phone calls. A healthy people of God are a people that communicate for change and encouragement.

3. Faith gets real when we discover that Patience leads us to Joy.

⁴ ... but the righteous shall live by his faith.

One of the most famous verses in the Bible, Paul quoted it, the author of Hebrews builds chapters 10 and 11 around it, Martin Luther was brought to Saving Faith, when he read Paul's quote of Hab in Romans 1:17. At first glance, this verse comes off stoic, like no matter what is happening you just carry on, and you live by faith. Yes, it is saying that AND it is saying so much more!

It is saying that no matter what you see you are destined to have so much more because you live believing in the one that has, is and will make all things better!
Your joy is not based on your circumstances but it is based on the very real presence on the Lord in your life!

I was reminded very recently of something we preached on just a few weeks ago. In Luke 12 we preached on a story about how Jesus is a bride groom and that we are His servants. And we are to be prepared into the late LATE hours of the night. The expectation is that they are to **WAIT for Him to return**. Not abandon their post, not to forget what they were supposed to be doing, to endure the night.

If you remember the story it gets real, interesting:

Luke 12:37 ESV



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³⁷ Blessed are those servants whom the master finds awake when he comes. Truly, I say to you, he will dress himself for service and have them recline at table, and he will come and serve them.

The Lord comes and He girds Himself up, makes ready for a work, and His work is to serve His people. The picture there is after the trials, the suffering, the life that produced a Faith that was made Real, Jesus is going to spend the rest of eternity loving us and sharing with us His inheritance, and we will know Joy like we have never known before.

And we know He’s good for it because we have already seen Him do it!

On the night of the last supper, we see Jesus, gird up Himself, and wash the feet of His disciples. Signifying how He has patiently served them and will dutifully serve them that night and through the cross. He will clean them, He will clean us, He will patiently endure our betrayal and He will patiently endure the wrath of God. Jesus has mastered the art of waiting showing us that our waiting is light and momentary and we celebrate that our Lord has done something we will never have to nor could do.

Faith gets real when Patience, learned by **waiting on the Lord** produces a Love for God that **doesn’t get frustrated** with Him when we don’t get what we want BUT RATHER it produces a Faith that believes He is loving us perfectly and greater things are still to come.

Waiting on the Lord reshapes your heart and motives to respond to Jesus in the way He deserves. **Don’t waste this time at home on being scared and angry wait on the Lord, live by Faith, so that you can experience a True Joy.**



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PRAY

COMMUNION

BENEDICTION

Go in the name of the Father, that calls us to wait patiently knowing it will develop in us a Heart like His own.

Go in the name of the Son, that has waited patiently on us calling us to wait patiently as the work is completed here on earth.

Go in the name and the power of the HS, that will enable us to endure this present hardship as it becomes a testimony to the God we love.