



Habakkuk - When Faith Gets Real

Wk. 4 "Worshipping"

By Pastor Jody May

Habakkuk's Prayer

3 A prayer of Habakkuk the prophet,
according to Shigionoth.

- 2 O LORD, I have heard the report of you,
and your work, O LORD, do I fear.
In the midst of the years revive it;
in the midst of the years make it
known;
in wrath remember mercy.
- 3 God came from Teman,
and the Holy One from Mount Paran.
Selah
His splendor covered the heavens,
and the earth was full of his praise.
- 4 His brightness was like the light;
rays flashed from his hand;
and there he veiled his power.
- 5 Before him went pestilence,
and plague followed at his heels.
- 6 He stood and measured the earth;
he looked and shook the nations;
then the eternal mountains were
scattered;
the everlasting hills sank low.
His were the everlasting ways.
- 7 I saw the tents of Cushan in affliction;
the curtains of the land of Midian did
tremble.
- 8 Was your wrath against the rivers, O
LORD?
Was your anger against the rivers,
or your indignation against the sea,
when you rode on your horses,
on your chariot of salvation?
- 9 You stripped the sheath from your bow,
calling for many arrows. *Selah*
You split the earth with rivers.
- 10 The mountains saw you and writhed;
the raging waters swept on;

the deep gave forth its voice;
it lifted its hands on high.

- 11 The sun and moon stood still in their
place
at the light of your arrows as they
sped,
at the flash of your glittering spear.
- 12 You marched through the earth in fury;
you threshed the nations in anger.
- 13 You went out for the salvation of your
people,
for the salvation of your anointed.
You crushed the head of the house of
the wicked,
laying him bare from thigh to neck.
Selah
- 14 You pierced with his own arrows the
heads of his warriors,
who came like a whirlwind to scatter
me,
rejoicing as if to devour the poor in
secret.
- 15 You trampled the sea with your horses,
the surging of mighty waters.
- 16 I hear, and my body trembles;
my lips quiver at the sound;
rotteness enters into my bones;
my legs tremble beneath me.
Yet I will quietly wait for the day of
trouble
to come upon people who invade us.

Habakkuk Rejoices in the LORD

- 17 Though the fig tree should not blossom,
nor fruit be on the vines,
the produce of the olive fail
and the fields yield no food,
the flock be cut off from the fold
and there be no herd in the stalls,
yet I will rejoice in the LORD;
- 18



Habakkuk - When Faith Gets Real

Wk. 4 "Worshipping"

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I will take joy in the God of my salvation.

¹⁹ GOD, the Lord, is my strength;
he makes my feet like the deer's;

he makes me tread on my high places.

To the choirmaster: with stringed instruments.

Intro:

Prophetic guess – you all are sleeping in more. I know at my house when you are the school-teacher and in charge of breakfast you usually let the troops sleep in, so you can get a little extra time in the morning yourself. **And because you love routine** many of you have been developing new ones; Stay up later and sleep in more, especially while we still have been blessed by pleasant weather. This new routine has replaced your old one of that early alarm clock ring. You know what tells me I am developing a new routine, I actually reset that clock on the coffee pot to a new start brewing time.

Maybe you are developing new routines right now?

Family dinner times – with music, without music, with prayer, with games, with laughter, or even many of you finally learned how to cook more than water and eggs.

Relaxation time - Walks in the neighborhood, learning to read again, watching that documentary you always wanted to now, that you are tired of binge watching...

Routines are good things they help develop behaviors that are productive: flossing, making lunches, workout times, bathing... 😊

Routines help us develop good habits and keep them, but **they should not be your functional savior**. I'm going to tell you a secret about routines. Routines benefit the person that does them, but they also **become excuses** for why you do what you do. **As in saying if your routine is good for you to help you to be better you will often neglect other things in life around you.** Routine sometimes inhibits your Relationships. **Illustration of D & M.**



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Wk. 4 "Worshipping"

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In Hab. we see a good man, a righteous man, at war with God's will. In the first two chapters he is crying out to God for justice, and God is like I am giving justice, you just don't understand why I am letting it happen the way it is. Hab. learns to *lament* and *grieve* because **Faith got Real**. Second week Hab. determines to be obedient and patient not deserting his Faith/People even though it is not what he had become accustomed to, **Faith is getting more Real**. In the third week Hab. determines to wait on the Lord, for whatever comes, he makes the decision to accept what God is sending their way. He will worship Him for it, **Faith was getting real** because *he decided to accept whatever was going to happen and however it would come*.

Now we get to this last chapter and we see Hab has emerged on the other side changed. Chapter 3 is a prayer, and not just any prayer, it is a prayer where he has accepted the will of God and he knows it is going to change everything in his life – **HIS ROUTINE**.

It is in his prayer that we see Hab has moved closer to God, that the relationship, under duress, has grown, **Hab has learned to live by Faith (2:4)**, and this prayer is the **byproduct** of someone having learned to **live by faith and not by sight**. We are witnessing what every Christian struggles with, **the letting go of their own personal will** for their lives and accepting **what God wants** for them. **God didn't just want to be a part of Habakkuk's Routine, NO, He wanted a willing servant that had a Relationship with Him.**

4th week of when **Faith gets Real** is understanding that **God is not about fitting into your Routine but is passionate about bringing you into Relationship!**

Routine puts you in control, Relationship puts God in control. So, let's look at some ways to keep Routines from becoming functional saviors in our lives.

3 Ways of breaking out of Routine and entering into Relationship.



Habakkuk - When Faith Gets Real

Wk. 4 "Worshipping"

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1. Pray

Danger of Routine

Routine for many of us becomes the way that we all learn to pray. As a small child many of us were taught our first prayers and we did them before we went to sleep – *"Now a lay me down to sleep I pray the Lord my soul to keep, if I should die..."*. But **outside of that many of us rarely saw our parents pray outside our bedroom**. I told my kids this week why we say such a short prayer at dinner time. **1st** because we should have been **praying throughout the day**, mealtime is not when we get caught up with our **routine**, it tends to put God as an unconnected dictator and not a loving Father. **Secondly**, asking God to bless food is like asking God to bless air, food was created with that intent already. No, we just say thank you for the food and family, amen! Thank you for provision and relationship.

So, what is prayer then if not a Christian Routine?

What is prayer then if it is not asking God for things? I think there is a clue in the Lord's Prayer when Jesus teaches us to say, *"Our Father"*. **Prayer is about having a discussion with someone we already have a relationship with.** *My relationship with my children would be awful if the only time they talked to me was when they wanted something and the only way they learned about life was by how I answered their requests. My relationship with my children is developed by conversation over a broad spectrum of things, speckled with daily requests for needs, and they learn how to be adults through relating to me not by just taking from me.* **Prayer is about developing and increasing the strength of the relationship between God and man – IT MAKES FAITH REAL.** For so long the church has taught that prayer is just a necessary routine to be taught to Christians, **like a workout regimen**, many Christians slack off in their communication with God. Here's why, because the regimen didn't bring results...

Routine is about control. Therefore, when I routinely pray for the things that I perceive to be good but many times I don't see God answering how I want, I learn something automatically. Either God is not concerned with my prayers or God is not powerful enough to answer them, and therefore prayer is a waste of time.



Habakkuk - When Faith Gets Real

Wk. 4 "Worshipping"

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Routine has inhibited my relationship with God at this point because we learned we can't control God. But if I remember **God is about Relationship** then a **yes or a no is acceptable**, for I am not praying to God to get what I want but I am praying to God because I already got all I ever needed, Him. Hab sees this now, so listen to his opening line.

Habakkuk's Prayer

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- 2** O LORD, I have heard the report of you,
and your work, O LORD, do I fear.
In the midst of the years revive it;
in the midst of the years make it known;
in wrath remember mercy.

Lord, I remember what I was taught in church, I remember now how you are.
Lord, "*do I fear*" how you work, I am afraid of it, I respect it, I am in awe of it, and I want to be on the right side of this relationship.

Lord, in the middle of if this time "*in the midst of my lifetime – these years*", don't change, do it again, LET ME SEE IT! Be again the God that moved with power, make it known! In your wrath remember your mercy.

PRAYER is breaking Hab away from routine religiosity and it can do the same for you!

Prayer builds your relationship with God. – Hab is restructuring his relationship with God, he's not trying to control him by making statements about his justice, he is remembering how God has always moved. Hab is realizing I am here for the ride, this world is not about me it's about Him. He is realizing the boundaries of this relationship, he's not the one in control, God is!

Prayer lets God be God and you be you. Prayer is not about you coming to God with answers, it's about admitting to God you don't know what you're doing. It puts God in the driver seat of the relationship and keeps you from trying to usurp control in your life. The more you pray the more dependent you become on Him,



Habakkuk - When Faith Gets Real

Wk. 4 "Worshipping"

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and that puts your Salvation exactly in the hands of the only person that can save you, the Lord Jesus.

I know for myself for so long and I am still apt to do this, the first thing I do when I get hit with a problem is, I plan. I am an ENT/FJ, the prototype for the Driven personality type. I usually make the plan, roll the dice and then I go, "Oh yeah, God can you bless that please?" I tend to function as my own Savior, and I don't let God be God. Praying first says to God let's God make the decisions and I become the one that deals with the consequences, that's my role His servant.

Prayer is THE EMOTIONAL RELEASE! When we realize God is about Relationship and that in prayer, we can let God be God then prayer accomplishes this amazing thing, **it defuses my emotional state**. When I go to God and put in His hands what I can't do then it means however it turns out it is still all under His control, and in His control is where I want to be. *Hab said "just please remember to show mercy in your wrath"*.

My best vent sessions have been with God, crying to Him over the things I am so frustrated with which are usually the things I have been trying to control. When I pray to Him, when I confess to Him, when I am honest with Him, when I am transparent with Him, when I have exhausted my emotional tank, then I can be done (men need to practice this more). **The righteous shall live by Faith**, we have got to trust that God must move, there must be justice, and we must be ok with how things work.

2nd way of breaking out of Routine and into Relationship:

2. Bible Study

Hab's prayer is not a long line of requests, the first request was "God you be You"! the second one is remember MERCY in v.2. Then the rest of the prayer, you may have recognized some of it, but it is a recount of the Exodus/Conquest story, in his own words. He is praying back to God what he reads in scripture. Want to know why we should read the Bible? So, you can talk to God about Him, for when you are talking to the best thing in the universe, the ultimate being, what else are



Habakkuk - When Faith Gets Real

Wk. 4 "Worshipping"

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you going talk about!?! It's not flattery its' speaking TRUTH and speaking truth will remind you God is not about Routine its' about Relationship for God desires change through our relationship with Him.

- 3 God came from Teman,
and the Holy One from Mount Paran. *Selah*
His splendor covered the heavens,
and the earth was full of his praise. – on the way out of Egypt when the Hebrews sang to God.
- 4 His brightness was like the light;
rays flashed from his hand;
and there he veiled his power. – as when God spoke from the mountain giving the ten commandments
- 5 Before him went pestilence,
and plague followed at his heels. – The ten plagues that Egypt endures, and affliction of the Philistines.
- 6 He stood and measured the earth;
he looked and shook the nations;
then the eternal mountains were scattered; - the Kingdoms of old were uprooted by God's chosen people
the everlasting hills sank low.
His were the everlasting ways.
- 7 I saw the tents of Cushan in affliction;
the curtains of the land of Midian did tremble. – as they passed by other nations feared them because of God.
- 8 Was your wrath against the rivers, O LORD?
Was your anger against the rivers,
or your indignation against the sea,
when you rode on your horses,
on your chariot of salvation? - parting of the Red Sea and the Jordan
- 9 You stripped the sheath from your bow,
calling for many arrows. *Selah*
You split the earth with rivers.
- 10 The mountains saw you and writhed;
the raging waters swept on;
the deep gave forth its voice;
it lifted its hands on high.
- 11 The sun and moon stood still in their place - Joshua fights (Josh. 10)
at the light of your arrows as they sped,
at the flash of your glittering spear.



Habakkuk - When Faith Gets Real

Wk. 4 "Worshipping"

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- 12 You marched through the earth in fury;
you threshed the nations in anger.
- 13 You went out for the salvation of your people,
for the salvation of your anointed.
You crushed the head of the house of the wicked,
laying him bare from thigh to neck. *Selah*
- 14 You pierced with his own arrows the heads of his warriors,
who came like a whirlwind to scatter me,
rejoicing as if to devour the poor in secret. – every military conquest against us, when we
went to you first you were mighty to defeat our enemies for us.
- 15 You trampled the sea with your horses,
the surging of mighty waters.
- 16 I hear, and my body trembles;
my lips quiver at the sound;
rottenness enters into my bones;
my legs tremble beneath me.
Yet I will quietly wait for the day of trouble
to come upon people who invade us. – Hab preaches the truth to himself from reading
the history of his people and knows the answer to the question he has been asking.
OFCOURSE God will bring justice, but it will be in God's own timing.

All these things God did, to reveal His glory to His people, because He had a relationship with the descendants of Abraham. It was to show the strength of God was for them not against them. How can we remember these things, the same way Hab did, commit to the relationship and look to hear from Him in the Word.

1st Don't get caught reading the same things all the time. We like to read that which we understand and appreciate the most. God's Word, to build relationship with us, does so by teaching us how to relate to God - He is holy and we are not. So, the Bible will dig up uncomfortable things you need to confess, because He loves you, and doesn't want those things between you and Him.

2nd Don't just read the Bible in a Routine, read it at different times and in different ways. If we read the Bible routinely only, again we aren't open to the relationship. Sometimes in our devotional times our mind is going over many



Habakkuk - When Faith Gets Real

Wk. 4 "Worshipping"

By Pastor Jody May

different things. Don't force it, come back to it, and go to it looking for God and how it calls you to notice Him.

3rd Don't get caught up in how much you read, but be aware of how much you retain. If you need to slow it down, then please take the freedom and read as slow as you want. Let the HS guide you in the speed of your talk with Him. Don't make your goals about accomplishing milestones make your goals about relationship. Are you getting anything out of reading the Bible and how is it making you pray. Look for that!

3. Worship

True Worship Replacing Worldly Concerns

Habakkuk Rejoices in the LORD

- 17** Though the fig tree should not blossom,
nor fruit be on the vines, - when there is no food in the pantry
the produce of the olive fail
and the fields yield no food, - when the ways of living and work are shut down
the flock be cut off from the fold
and there be no herd in the stalls, - when the bank says no and the savings are gone
- 18** yet I will rejoice in the LORD;
I will take joy in the God of my salvation. – joy comes from God instead of worldly signalling
- 19** God, the Lord, is my strength;
he makes my feet like the deer's;
he makes me tread on my high places. – through my discomfort and through my trials it has taught me not to look at the world as I am used to, but as God looks at it.

For Christians this should be our view, from the high places. We see when Habakkuk could not see, that the plan was to bring the one that could actually have the right relationship with God, His Son Jesus. Jesus teaches us how to pray for relationship, Jesus uses the OT to tell Him about His Father believing by Faith what His Father was truly like, and Jesus trusts the plans for His life even though it led Him to the dark path of Calvary.



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Wk. 4 "Worshipping"

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Jesus tells us in John 16 that through our relationship with Him that the Father has come to love us. That when we pray, we ask in His name for the things of the Kingdom and the Father will answer us. Jesus has built the bridge of reconciliation for us to have a Relationship with God now. (Romans 5:10-11)

As we remember from last week Jesus has shown that God is still Faithful, that He is gracious in giving and mighty to save. When we remember these things here's what's supposed to happen until we see Him again.

We Worship.... Worship is the **response of Joy** in who God is, because we are finally connecting with Him in a Relationship.

Worship is the action produced by the heart that happens between the time of **not knowing** what God is planning but **believing** in His ultimate victory.

Worship happens that while we cannot **understand His ways**, we believe they will bring us all into a better way of life.

Worship is letting other people know **God is Good** by expressing your pleasure in your God, even when things look bleak in the present.

Worship is not just singing but it is the response to all things in life that says even **though you slay me**, I still will **follow** (Job 13:15).

Worship is the response to having finally learned this, *"for the righteous shall live by his faith. (2:4)"*

We Worship family because we have seen with our eyes the working of our God in our days to make our **Faith Real**, all through the perfect work of Jesus...



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Wk. 4 "Worshipping"

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PRAY

COMMUNION

BENEDICTION

Go in the name of the Father, that desires relationship bringing joy to His people through His provided Salvation.

Go in the name of the Son, that made relationship with God through His Reconciling Work on the cross.

Go in the name and the power of the HS, that helps us to see God's work from the high places creating in us a heart that Worships in front of the world.