


















When God Seems Silent: A Study of Habakkuk
Lesson Nine: Gaining Perspectives on Life's Stresses (2:1-3)
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Introduction:

- I. A ship was overtaken by a fearful storm in a dangerous sea. The rudder had no power to direct the vessel and the wind drove her swiftly to a rocky shore. An anchor was thrown out to stop the ship, but it did not hold. The steersman forsook the helm and ran about crying, "O God we are all lost – have mercy upon us!" Terror reigned. At this juncture, when total wreck seemed inevitable, the crew threw out another anchor which took firm hold of a rock beneath the raging waves, and at once checked the ship. The helmsman resumed his place and cried, "Thank God we are safe!" The passengers and crew joined in the chorus, "Thank God! Thank God!" The storm passed and the ship sailed on to reach her destination. "O ye voyagers of life's sea, who know yourselves to be drifting upon a lee shore, your only safety lies in fixing the anchor of your hope in the Rock of Ages" (Foster, Vol. 2, 35).
- II. There is no greater  security than a safe shelter in perilous times. This is true whenever our lives, hopes, and future are threatened by Satan's forces.
1.  Without such security we are easily captured by Satan's evil devices.
 2.  Bolstered by a secure refuge our "hope" is renewed.
- III. Habakkuk's  hope had been shaken. The revelation of Judah's fall to Babylonian savagery was a hard blow. The terrible crises of Deuteronomy 28:15ff were about to become reality. Among such would be a siege in which the Israelis would eat their own children (28:53-57). It was this  awful stress that burdened Habakkuk.
- IV. The prophet had presented his argument to God as to why Jehovah should not allow Babylon to invade and conquer. The nation was evil, arrogant, ungodly, and treacherous; the Lord God was too pure to use such a nation.
1. Habakkuk has finished with  a firm affirmation that Jehovah God would not allow such cruelty to continue (1:17).
 2. Having finished his case, Habakkuk now  waits for God's response.
 - a.  "Watchtower" (Guard Post) is probably figurative but is used to illustrate his vigilant expectations. This post was manned by trained guards who scanned the perimeter for any unusual signs (2 Kings 9:17; 2 Samuel 18:24).
 - b. Habakkuk was thus  watching for some response from God to the complaints he had just concluded. He was waiting for a new perspective on the situation in Judah.
- V. Habakkuk's example provides us  a great lesson. We, too, are often caught in the midst of storms/trials. We  need an anchor which brings safety; we  need a shelter that offers security. Habakkuk's text highlights four specific points on how we can handle the pressures/stresses of earthly life.

Body:

- I. Demonstrate  a never-failing commitment to God (Habakkuk 2:1).
- A. In the midst of this problem  Habakkuk still demonstrated an unwavering faith in God.
1.  Life did not seem fair, right, or equitable.
 2. No doubt he really asked,  "Does it pay to follow God?" A similar situation is discussed in Psalm 73. Both Habakkuk and Asaph went to God to regain a proper perspective (Psalm 73:25-26, 28).
 3. Habakkuk needed to  remember that God is in control and He is doing whatever is good (Isaiah 14:24, 27).

4. Habakkuk shared ☞ a common weakness – we all want God to act according to our character, not His. But God always acts the same (2 Timothy 2:13).
- B. If we are to gain the perspective in life that will lead us to victory, we must possess this whole-hearted consecration to God.
1. Habakkuk was ☞ confident that God would supply an answer. All he had to do was wait (Psalm 5:3).
 2. Is this how you confront the troubling facts of life? (James 1:6). The “watchman” is far above all and eagerly strains to find any answer.
 3. Once we take a problem to God, we should ☞ follow Habakkuk’s example and cease to concern ourselves about it! But we fail. We are faced with a problem, pray about it, confess that it is beyond our abilities, ask God to take care of it, and then get up from prayer and begin worrying about it all over!
 - a. Habakkuk did not do this! (2:1)
 - b. We must ☞ “let go and let God” have the problem!

Let Go and Let God

As children bring their broken toys
 With tears for us to mend.
 I brought my broken dreams to God
 Because He was my Friend.
 But then instead of leaving Him
 In peace to work alone,
 I hung around and tried to help
 With ways that were my own.
 At last I snatched them back and cried,
 “How can You be so slow?”
 “My child,” He said, “what could I do –
 You never did let go!”
 (Anonymous)

4. ☞ Philippians 4:6, 7 – Habakkuk could not understand the problem nor reconcile it with God’s justice. But he did take it to God and leave it there. This is the only way to peace. No matter the problem, never let it overwhelm you and burden you with care. Having done everything you can, turn it over to God!
 5. Life’s stresses can be eased by a committed faith ☞ that believes “God is ABLE”! (2 Timothy 1:12b; Ephesians 3:20). Such a faith has ☞ enabled Christians to face and overcome even the worst trials (Acts 16:25; 2 Corinthians 12:10).
- II. ☞ Give an energetic response to God’s Word (Habakkuk 2:2).
- A. Habakkuk was told to write down the response because it would be read and publicized by many. The message was simple and offered the answer to faith’s frustrations.
 - B. God’s Word is still ☞ the only way to gain an answer to life’s perplexities.
 1. Habakkuk ☞ rejected human wisdom as offering an answer. He wanted to know what God said.
 2. God’s Word continues to ☞ offer an answer to those who seek it (Psalm 119:97-104, 143, 165).
 3. God’s Word is ☞ “plain” – even the casual reader can profit from its message.
 4. Such a wonderful message ☞ should be proclaimed.
- III. ☞ Possess an absolute trust in the future (Habakkuk 2:3).
- A. Here was the answer to Habakkuk’s perplexity.

1. ☞ No immediate deliverance was coming – it would be in the future. But deliverance would eventually come.
 2. ☞ The prophet had to “wait” for its coming.
- B. Life's stresses often press us to seek immediate relief – we want the matter taken care of “right now”! ☞
But God does not work on our time schedule.
1. Many saints have had to learn this quality of “waiting” on God (Psalm 5:3; 85:8; Isaiah 26:8; Hebrews 10:36-38).
 2. Nothing reveals the truth of our faith as much as our willingness to “wait” on God. When we are burdened with life's stresses, we often get so anxious that we cannot “wait” on God. What does this say about our faith?
 3. God tells us – “Trust and believe and at the proper time it will come!”
 - a. God may seem slow, but His promises WILL come!
 - b. “Undue haste as well as the lack of patience has forestalled the solution of many a problem and brought to ruin many a well-laid plan” (Yoder, 153).
 - c. ☞ This patient “waiting” does not murmur but constantly trusts in God.
 4. Remember – ☞ when life's stresses appear to go unnoticed by God's justice, it does not mean that God is not doing anything, it does mean that God is going to do things in His own way! (2 Peter 3:9).
☞ Your whole perspective of life's injustices will change when you allow injustice to be answered on God's schedule! (2 Timothy 2:13; Isaiah 14:24). Although God seems to allow wickedness to prosper and destruction and violence to parade through society, ☞ there will come a day of reckoning! (2 Thessalonians 1:6-8).
- IV. ☞ Diligence to duty in the face of perplexities (Habakkuk 2:1).
- A. Habakkuk's resolve was to ☞ continue at his post even though surrounded with problems that did not make sense. He was going to continue – “I will stand – I will not leave my post – ☞ I will faithfully discharge my duty!”
 - B. Christians today must share a similar resolve. ☞ Even though we are often beset with doubts and pounded with problems, we must continue!
 1. 1 Corinthians 15:58
 2. When we allow perplexities to keep us from work, ☞ problems will only increase, ☞ fellowship will lessen. Activity has a way of lightening the burdens of problems in life.
 3. Too often Christians are burdened with stress and ☞ just quit – they need to regain the proper perspective that Habakkuk reclaimed!

Conclusion:

He Maketh No Mistakes
 My Father's way may twist and turn;
 My heart may throb and ache,
 But in my soul I'm glad I know
 He maketh no mistake.
 My cherished plans may go astray;
 My hopes may fade away,
 But still I'll trust my Lord to lead
 For He doth know the way.
 Tho' night be dark, and it may seem
 That day will never break,

I'll pin my faith, my all in Him,
He maketh no mistake.
There's so much now I cannot see;
My eyesight's far too dim,
But come what may, I'll simply trust
And leave it all to Him.
For by and by the mist will lift
And plain it all He'll make,
Thru' all the way, thro' dark to me,
He made not one mistake.
(Author Unknown)

I. Let us 🙏 possess the perspective of Habakkuk when we are confronted with life's stresses/struggles. Always 🙏 be confident in your trust in God.

II. This was the "turning point" in Habakkuk's struggles.

🙏 "This is the bright star in all his prophecy. This is the underlying and significant factor – that the hope which Habakkuk received in the vision is the same hope that the Christian community maintains: that history, as we know it, is in God's hands; it is God's story and He is in control. This is what allowed Habakkuk to come down out of the prayer tower and walk in the streets... This hope was at the very center on the New Testament Church" (Ungerer, 43-44).

III. "What then? 🙏 Shall we despair? Shall we express doubt as to whether the transformation of the realm of death into a realm of spiritual life shall ever be affected? No; though the vision tarry, we will wait for it, knowing that it will surely come; for "the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it." (Pulpit Commentary, Vol 14, 36)

🙏 Our Next Lesson: The Answer To Life's Dilemmas