

“Why?”
Habakkuk 1-2:1

The question “why?” is perhaps the most pervasive and persistent question in all of human history. It’s a question that infiltrates our minds and rarely leaves us alone. Not only is this question pervasive and persistent, but it is also confounding and humbling. The simple question “why?” can quickly bring us to our knees in perplexing dismay.

Finding himself in such a place of dismay, the prophet, Habakkuk, levels three questions to God. In the first chapter of his self-titled book, Habakkuk questions God’s apparent indifference, he questions God’s character, and God’s Plan.

Was Habakkuk wrong to question God? We wrestled through this question on Sunday morning and concluded that he was not wrong to question God. Now it’s your turn to wrestle with God concerning the questions of your heart.

Habakkuk Questions God’s Indifference

Read through Habakkuk 1:2-11 as a group.

We concluded two things in the sermon on Sunday. First, God is always listening (see Psalm 116:1), and we ought not to confuse his perceived inaction with indifference. Second, God might not give us the answer that we want in the way we want it, but he answers every single one of our questions in accordance with his infinite wisdom and will for our good and his glory. Sometimes, those answers are unbelievable.

As you consider your prayers to God, share a time when God didn’t answer your prayer in the way you wanted. What sort of effect did that have on you? How did the passage of time shift your perspective? Did you see his providential hand emerge as you waited, or did your heart grow hard and embittered? Hint: the right answer is the honest answer ;)

Habakkuk Questions God’s Character and Plan

Read through Habakkuk 1:12-17 as a group.

Habakkuk replies to God with a very bold question. He asks God, “Are You not from everlasting?” When he asks, “Are you not from everlasting?” he is questioning the nature and character of God. He is in effect saying, “Listen, I thought you were transcendent, I thought you were all-powerful, I thought you were wise, I thought you were just. Why therefore are ‘You silent when the wicked swallow up those more righteous?’” As one commentator notes, “The prophet’s question arose out of an apparent inconsistency between God’s actions and his character.”

When you consider God’s plan for your life, what apparent inconsistencies raise questions in your mind? In what ways are you struggling to rationalize your faith in God’s character with the way your life is playing out?

Habakkuk Asks, Then Habakkuk Waits

Read through Habakkuk 1:12 as a group.

Habakkuk is back to where he was when he started. God is silent. So Habakkuk will do as he did before. He will wait. But notice his waiting is an active waiting. He is not just waiting he is also watching. He sees himself as a sentinel standing guard on a high tower awaiting the arrival of a great dignitary. He doesn’t know when he will arrive, but when he arrives, he will be ready to receive him.

Do you have questions for God burning in your heart? Are you questioning his apparent indifference, his character, and his plan for your life? Don’t be ashamed. Remember, honest questions require extortionary faith. The fact that you are willing to ask them and to address them to God means you are a person of extortionary faith.

Are you waiting actively for God’s reply? How or how not?