

When Will God Hear and Act? A Study of the Book of Habakkuk

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Key Truth: God's People should rest in God's Goodness even when we do not see God's Justice.

The longer we walk with God, the more we realize that he is not only compassionate and merciful, he is also terribly fierce. In the Book of Habakkuk we find a prophet who is terribly frustrated, even to the point of accusing God of injustice. But what the prophet Habakkuk must realize is that God's sovereign plan is both fierce and loving. Eventually, Habakkuk comes to find rest and contentment in God's faithful plan. This is a lesson for all of us as we question why God does not seem to step in when we or our loved ones experience suffering or injustice. He is carrying out a greater plan.

DISCUSS

Read **Habakkuk 1:1-11** and discuss with the group a statement or concept that stood out to you or impacted you in the sermon on "When Will God Hear and Act?"

DIG IN

1. A Frustrated Prophet:

How would you describe Habakkuk's "tone of voice" in the first four verses of this chapter?

Share with the group a time or times when you have serious, honest doubt about the character of God.

What does Habakkuk accuse God of in verse 2?

From the context here, how would you describe what seems to be happening in Judah at this time?

In what ways does Habakkuk appear to question God's goodness in verse 3?

In what ways might the "law" be paralyzed in Habakkuk's day? Do you think you would also be led to question God's sovereignty in this instance? Why or why not?

2. A Fierce God:

Describe some of the characteristics of the Chaldeans (Babylonians) as stated in verses 6-11. In what ways might these same qualities be evident in our world today?

According to verse 5, in what ways does God prove to be even more fierce than the Chaldeans?

Does this challenge or comfort you in some way? Why or why not?

DO

In what ways will you personally put what you have learned through this sermon into practice this week?