

Sermon Notes – August 11, 2019

Review

- ⇒ The Minor Prophets consists of 12 shorter books covering a large span of time. Some are written to the northern kingdom, before the Assyrian captivity (722 BC), others are written to the southern kingdom before the Babylonian captivity (586 BC) and others are written to those return from Babylon.
- ⇒ The Minor Prophets show us how God will fulfill His promise of a New Covenant. He is *Cultivating a New Heart* in His people.
- ⇒ Last week, we saw the sobering reality of God’s judgement and our guilt as sinners. Without understanding this we can’t understand and appreciate the incredible mercy found in the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Today’s Text: Habakkuk

This is a prophetic oracle in the form of a conversation between Habakkuk and God. Here, Habakkuk asks a question you have probably asked—If God is _____, why do the wicked prosper?

Habakkuk’s Question & An Unexpected Answer

- ⇒ After the _____ events of 2 Kings 22-23, King Josiah’s death leads to Jehoiakim ruling corruptly as a vassal to the Egyptians. Habakkuk’s hopes of a righteous government have been dashed and he wonders why God would let this happen. (1:1-4)
- ⇒ God’s answer is unexpected. He redirects Habakkuk’s attention to a more _____ people who He is raising up! (1:5-11)
- ⇒ This is not the answer Habakkuk wants! Habakkuk’s question shifts from, “Why do you tolerate wrong?” to “Why do you tolerate the treacherous?”
- ⇒ Habakkuk is righteous AND he struggles with difficulties in life. He shows it is possible to ask hard questions without _____.

God’s Answer—Accountability for the Treacherous

- ⇒ God gives freedom to respond to him but only two responses are possible—the righteous response of _____ or the puffed-up response of _____.

Habakkuk
God Can Be Trusted with What I Don’t Understand
Pastor Tyler Pease

- ⇒ While God uses the Babylonians for His purposes, He also holds them accountable for their prideful treachery. Five woes foretell their destruction and warn all who might follow their example:
 - Woe 1: The plunderers will be _____. (2:6b-8)
 - Woe 2: Your security will not guard you from _____. (2:9-11)
 - Woe 3: Your work will ultimately be _____. (2:12-14)
 - Woe 4: Violence against people and nature will be _____. (2:15-17)
 - Woe 5: Those who trust idols will face the _____ God. (2:18-20)

Habakkuk’s Response: A Song of Faith

While he doesn’t get the answer he wanted, Habakkuk is moved to a response of faith and worship. His song becomes a call for the righteous to live by faith.

- ⇒ Refrain: God, I know your character, remember mercy as you act! (3:2)
- ⇒ Stanza 1: Remembering how God _____ Israel. (3:3-8)
- ⇒ Stanza 2: Remembering times God saved Israel against all _____. (3:9-13a)
- ⇒ Stanza 3: Remembering how God crushed His adversaries’ _____. (3:14-15)
- ⇒ Bridge: Despite my _____, I will continue to trust God. (3:16-19)

Responding to God’s Word

- ⇒ On this side of the cross we get a glimpse into why God allowed these difficult events in Habakkuk’s day (Deut. 28:49-52; 30:1-6; Romans 3:19-26). This gives us even more reason to trust God in our own uncertainties.
- ⇒ Responding in faith requires reminders of what God has done. For us, the cross is the pinnacle of this! When there are no easy answers, the cross demonstrates God’s goodness.
- ⇒ Responding if faith also requires reminders of reality. Our culture pushes us to a humanistic worldview that overemphasizes the importance of the temporary.

Next Sunday: August 18, 2019

“The Bottom Line: God. Is. Trustworthy.”

Habakkuk 3:17-19; Haggai

Pastor Jay Mosser

Answer Key: • good • hopeful • treacherous • sinning • faith • pride • plundered • shame • meaningless • repaid
• living • established • odds • heads • circumstances •