Scripture

Habakkuk 2:1-20 English Standard Version (ESV)
1 I will take my stand at my watchpost and station myself on the tower, and look out to see what he will say to me, and what I will answer concerning my complaint.
2 And the Lord answered me: “Write the vision; make it plain on tablets, so he may run who reads it.
3 For still the vision awaits its appointed time; it hastens to the end—it will not lie. If it seems slow, wait for it; it will surely come; it will not delay.
4 “Behold, his soul is puffed up; it is not upright within him, but the righteous shall live by his faith.
5 “Moreover, wine is a traitor, an arrogant man who is never at rest. His greed is as wide as Sheol; like death he has never enough. He gathers for himself all nations and collects as his own all peoples.”
6 Shall not all these take up their taunt against him, with scoffing and riddles for him, and say, “Woe to him who heaps up what is not his own— for how long?— and loads himself with pledges!”
7 Will not your debtors suddenly arise, and those awake who will make you tremble? Then you will be spoil for them.
8 Because you have plundered many nations, all the remnant of the peoples shall plunder you, for the blood of man and violence to the earth, to cities and all who dwell in them.
9 “Woe to him who gets evil gain for his house, to set his nest on high, to be safe from the reach of harm!
10 You have devised shame for your house by cutting off many peoples; you have forfeited your life.
11 For the stone will cry out from the wall, and the beam from the woodwork respond.
12 “Woe to him who builds a town with blood and founds a city on iniquity!
13 Behold, is it not from the Lord of hosts that peoples labor merely for fire, and nations weary themselves for nothing?
14 For the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord as the waters cover the sea.
15 “Woe to him who makes his neighbors drink—you pour out your wrath and make them drunk, in order to gaze at their nakedness!
16 You will have your fill of shame instead of glory. Drink, yourself, and show your uncircumcision! The cup in the Lord's right hand will come around to you, and utter shame will come upon your glory!
17 The violence done to Lebanon will overwhelm you, as will the destruction of the beasts that terrified them, for the blood of man and violence to the earth, to cities and all who dwell in them.
18 “What profit is an idol when its maker has shaped it, a metal image, a teacher of lies?
For its maker trusts in his own creation when he makes speechless idols!

19 Woe to him who says to a wooden thing, Awake; to a silent stone, Arise!

Can this teach?

Behold, it is overlaid with gold and silver, and there is no breath at all in it.

20 But the Lord is in his holy temple; let all the earth keep silence before him."

Discussion/Journal Questions

Read Habakkuk 2:1-20. Reflect on a time when God did not answer a prayer in the way you expected or hoped that He would. What were your feelings at that time?

Reflect on Habakkuk 2:3. In the sermon, John says, “God may seem slow but He’s never late. . . . He is an ‘on-time’ God.” How have you witnessed this in your own life?

God’s timing is His own. One possible reason that John shares for why God waits to answer prayer is so that it is obvious that answer is from Him, and not due to our physical or spiritual abilities. Do you agree or disagree with this? Why?

According to Habakkuk 2:4, “The righteous will live by faith.” In other words, “Live life in step with God, trusting Him for all the rest.” What does this look like for you this week?

Meditate on Habakkuk 2:14. What will it be like when Christ returns and the earth is “filled with the knowledge of the Lord.?”

In the sermon, John challenges us with the spiritual discipline of praise. “Praise helps us get through the tough times because we remember who God is and what he has done. Then we can turn and face tomorrow because we know that God is working in our tomorrow.” How does the act of praise help you live by faith?

Make a plan for when you will practice this discipline over the next week. When will you do it? Who will hold you accountable?