

HOW LONG SHALL I CRY FOR HELP

HABAKKUK 1:1-11 // TODD DUGARD
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When I complain about the crises I face, God responds with a call to accept his often-misunderstood ways.

GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Have you ever had a reason to complain about God's care, either openly, or secretly? What was the reason for your concern?

It isn't easy to maintain a positive view of God's care while living through a negative experience in our world. Therefore, we need to have a robust theology around human suffering and sinfulness.

- How may God be using moral decay, social injustice, rampant crime, relational breakdown, government failure, or religious marginalization for his grand purposes? Support your answer with ideas from Scripture if you can.

While there is some wisdom in remaining informed about the news, it's possible for us to become foolishly fixated on the sinful issues we are not designed to tolerate. Habakkuk had felt the pain of seeing too much inequity and injustice. He lamented about the long list of crises that broke his heart. In God's response to Habakkuk, he lays out a challenge for faith saying, "I'm doing a work in your days that you would not believe if you were told. For behold, I'm raising up the Chaldeans, that bitter and hasty nation..."

- Is it hard for you to accept that God is able to use wickedness (which he will

condemn when Christ returns) to accomplish his ultimate purposes? Have you considered that Christ's death was part of God's plan yet carried out by people with wicked agendas?

The problem Habakkuk faces, the problem we face, is explained in Genesis. When Adam and Eve ate from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, they opened the door to the experience of a world filled with hardship, sin, wicked behaviour, injustice, and condemnation. It is now a world that needs a Saviour; no human outcry will be able to set things straight. We live in that world, and the only hope for us to overcome it is to align ourselves with Jesus Christ as we follow God's word.

- Search your heart: How are you doing with living in a world that is unjust and sinful while submitting yourself more to Jesus Christ? In the face of the list of issues mentioned in the first question, are you becoming more passive or more aggressive? What do your words and actions convey about God's heart?
- What is one aspect about God and his plan that you can marvel at today? What could change or strengthen if you spent an additional five minutes a day building your mindset around this truth?
- What is an aspect of God's promises that you want to become more aware of? What could help you bring that into greater clarity over the coming month?
- What is hard for you to accept about God's sovereignty in light of current crises? What decisions would express your deepening personal alignment with the belief that God is always in control and leading you toward eternal life?