

HABAKKUK: Habakkuk 2:4-20

Sunday's text is God's answer to what Habakkuk was to do with all the thoughts he was having and circumstances he was experiencing. Here are some of the things Habakkuk has experienced so far in the book: God did not stop every hard thing; he prayed and did not see God do anything; God answered his prayer in a way he did not like; Habakkuk was going through a phase of processing his pain; God did not tell him why; and Habakkuk was having to simply wait.

Which of those realities do you think is the most challenging?

Are there any of those realities or experiences that you have not had?

If you have experienced all of what Habakkuk has experienced, which one of those realities was the most difficult for you?

Habakkuk 2:4 is the key verse in the book and is God's response to what Habakkuk should do. God tells Habakkuk to "live by faith."

Does the statement to "live by faith" sound cliché or trite? If so, why? If not, why not?

What are some very practical ways that we can remind ourselves of our faith in the midst of hard times?

In moments of trials, unknowns, waiting, and unanswered prayers the fundamental issue often becomes whether we trust God or not. Do you agree or disagree? Is that too simplistic?

Have you ever faced a moment when you simply had to decide whether you were going to trust God and whether He could be trusted?

The final sermon point (based on God's comment to Habakkuk) was to avoid turning to unhealthy and unhelpful means of coping and escape, such as alcohol.

Do you think that people seek ways to escape and cope with the hard moments of life and moments of waiting? Is it good to try to escape? Can it be harmful to try to escape?

What are some harmful things that people tend to depend upon to try to escape or cope?

Do those things ultimately provide the escape and means to cope that they initially seem to offer?