

# ***“When the House is Broken!”***

## ***Habakkuk 3:17-19***

**Intro.** – 102 Pilgrims came to the New World in 1620. 56 died due to starvation, disease and the cold winter. In 1621, 46 Pilgrims and 91 Indians met to give thanks for a bountiful harvest and for the preservation of their lives. Those folks had every reason to be depressed and discouraged, but they were thankful anyhow!

The book of Habakkuk was written against a backdrop of apostasy, judgment and unbelievable hardship. It was written during a time when Jehoiakim the king of Judah led the people back into idolatry and away from the Lord. As a result, God is preparing to judge the nation. Habakkuk is having trouble understanding why God would use a heathen nation like Babylon to punish His people. He cannot understand why God doesn't just purge their sins and draw them back to Himself and to righteousness.

Habakkuk is a lot like Job. He argues his case, but in the end, he realizes that God is not to be worshiped merely because of the temporal, material and physical blessings of life, but simply for Who He is. Thus, he ends his words with a song of thanksgiving to God for Who He is and for the unchanging benefits that belong to those who know Him! Habakkuk had reason to fret, but he chose to be thankful instead! How did this happen? What caused this remarkable change? Why did Habakkuk begin with complaints but end up with a song?

The message today is not simply about *Home Improvements*, but what to do when your life and/or home seem beyond repair, or when the house is broken:

*Purpose: to review the help/healing for all who have or are experiencing broken homes.*

## **I There is GENUINE HURT**

- it's easy to fool people about how things are really going; simply wear a false smile and hum a cheery tune. Let me illustrate what I mean:
- Illus. – During WW I the following song was made popular:
  - What's the use of worrying?
  - It never was worthwhile,
  - So pack up your trouble
  - In your old kit-bag,
  - And smile, smile, smile.
- these words were written by vaudeville actor, George Powell. Set to a cheery tune written by his piano playing brother, Felix. Years later, Felix Powell sat at a piano and played his well know tune, “Smile, Smile, Smile.” Then he went to another room where he was alone and put a bullet in himself.
- fact is, we live in a world full of hurt, and that hurt has found its way into the family of God. In this assembly today there is represented virtually every kind of hurt imaginable.
- my point: hurts can be invariably traced to homes that are broken... There's genuine hurt in following:

### **A. Strained Marriages**

1. There are homes, more than anyone wants to admit, where the “happy home” isn't so happy and those involved wonder how much longer they can stand it.
2. In these cases, perhaps adultery is involved... alcohol or some other drug addition... spousal abuse... Our world gives more than “50 Ways to Leave Your Lover” and is the expert on ways to strain a marriage.

### **B. Shattered Marriages**

1. Some even here today have endured the trauma of divorce and the feelings of failure and emptiness resulting from this experience.
2. Illus. – remember as a younger preacher in a seminar on “The Home”... speaker asked for a show of hands where divorce was experienced in the “immediate family” (parents, grandparents, siblings) = better than 90% raised their hands.
3. I suspect such would be the case today if I were to ask for the same show of hands...

### **C. Rebellious Kids**

1. Someone has said, "It's easier and better to build boys than to repair men."
  - Proverbs 29:17 *"Correct your son and he will give you comfort; he will also delight your soul."*
2. Someone has said, "Pretty is as pretty does."
  - Proverbs 11:22 *"As a ring of gold in a swine's snout, so is a beautiful woman who lacks discretion."*
3. Illus. – close, dear friends of our family had a son who rebelled. He literally was breaking his folks heart... Seeing this and now having grown kids, I understand. What could hurt more than raising kids to love the Lord and His Church and then witness these kids abandoning Christ the Lord?

#### D. Infertility

1. Problems with infertility affects 1 out of 8 couples in the US.
2. Know of couples affected as such who would provide the greatest of Christian homes...; yet, we have a million abortions taking place annually in this nation...

#### E. Illness

- physical illnesses and disabilities affect us all...

#### F. Livelihood Changes

- layoffs, depressed markets, strain/pressures in present job...

#### G. Loss of Loved One

1. Those who have lost a mate, close friend, maybe even a child = genuine hurt and loss...
2. Look around at all who are present today and I assure you there is every kind of hurt imaginable represented in this assembly.
3. As a congregation proving our faithfulness in reaching out with the Gospel of Christ to a lost and hurting world, we are going to attract people with problems/hurts/difficulties.
  - as the Lord's Church we're not a Country Club; instead we are landfill taking in garbage and turning it into a park.

Point: if you're hurting, you are not alone and you are welcome right here!

## II There is HELP

- ours is not a message of self-pity/doom and gloom. For all the hurt being shoveled out by the world, there is HELP:

#### A. From the Lord

1. John 16:33 *"...In the world you have tribulation, but, take courage; I have overcome the world."*
2. Psalm 46:1 *"God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in time of need."*
3. 1 Peter 5:7 *"Cast all your anxiety upon Him because He cares for you."*
4. Illus. – Joe Scriven learned there's help from the Lord. Joe's life was filled with troubles e.g. As a young man in Ireland, his bride to be accidentally drowned the night before their wedding. Tragedy stalked his life filling it with loneliness, meager pay and physical illness. His second fiancée died prior to their wedding with a sudden sickness. Upon Joe's death in 1886, monument given in his honor says: "Joseph Scriven: a friend to many and who found a friend in Jesus." This was the same Joseph Scriven who penned the words to the hymn "What a Friend We Have in Jesus."

#### B. From the Family of God

1. The help God provides often comes through His Son's Church – the Body of Christ...
2. Romans 12:5 *"Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those..."* i.e. sorrow shared is sorrow divided; joy shared is joy multiplied.
3. Tendency is to avoid people when in midst of suffering:
  - a. let me encourage you to give God's family opportunity to encourage and strengthen...
  - b. from personal experience, I have no idea where I'd be if not for the presence and support of brothers and sisters in Christ!

#### C. From the Word of God

1. There is also help from God's Word, the Bible. His Word is TRUTH!...
2. May we never take lightly the comfort, strength, freedom comes from TRUTH (Jn 8:32; 10:35; 17:17) God's Word.

### III There is HEALING

- A. Through Forgiveness Received
  1. We all have made foolish/sinful choices = resulting and hurt and pain (note: consequences often wrongly lumped with guilt of sin...)
  2. Healing begins when we seek forgiveness from One we've offended = Holy God has been wronged... and you and I have contributed to the wrong directed His way...
  3. Also healing begins when we go to those we've wronged and seek their forgiveness as well...
- B. Through Forgiveness Given
  1. It really is more blessed to give than to receive...
  2. Bitterness, revenge etc. eat our bodies, minds alive!...
  3. Healing begins when we give to others what Christ has given to us!
- C. Through Growing in Faith
  1. Healing will come when we realize suffering is not an end in itself.
  2. Illus. – Mark Twain tells of man hitting his head against brick wall. When asked why he was doing it the man responded, "Because it feels so good when I stop!"
  3. Romans 5:3-4 *"We exalt in our tribulations, knowing that tribulations bring about perseverance, and perseverance proven character, and proven character hope, and hope does not disappoint."*
- D. Through Helping Others
  1. When we get off the "Unholy Trinity" (Me, Myself and I) and start seeking to bless those around us, healing comes...
  2. Others are encountering some of the same challenges you and I are experiencing... We need to let the Lord use us to comfort and help those in need.

### Conclusion: **"Jesus is Lord of the Way I Feel"**

*"Praise the Lord, Hallelu;  
I don't care what the Devil's going to do;  
Word in faith is my sword and shield,  
Jesus is Lord of the way I feel!"*

These are the words to a song written by Don Francisco. The 1st verse of the song quotes verbatim the text. What caused this remarkable change in Habakkuk and is it something you and I can tap into to make sure our homes aren't broken and if they are to repair the break?!

The answer lies in lies in three verses in chapter 2. 2:4 says *"The just shall live by faith..."* 2:14 says the earth would *"be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord."* 2:20 says, *"... the Lord is in His holy temple."*

These wonderful truths, these "absolute truths" were just what Habakkuk needed to lift him out of his pit. They are also just what we need when the house is broken!