Habakkuk Sermon Guide

Week 5: “Hunger Satisfied” (Habakkuk 2:6-20)

GETTING TO KNOW YOU

1. ICEBREAKER: *Would you rather be able to teleport anywhere or be able to read minds? Explain.*

2. **“Growth Group Video | Habakkuk – Week 5”.** *Was there anything from the sermon on Habakkuk that encouraged, challenged, or that you had a question about?*

GOING DEEPER

1. The main point of last week’s sermon was that the same seeds of pride and hunger for glory which resided in the Chaldeans, reside in us as well. When was a time that you have personally *felt* the hunger for glory, greatness, and grandeur awakened or kindled?

2. When our hearts are not enthralled with the glory of God, we search for it in created things further corrupting our hearts and breeding more dysfunction in our life. Read Habakkuk 2:18-19 together with Psalm 115:1-8 and see if you can identify a similar theme. When have you ever witnessed or experienced what Psalm 115:8 is saying?

3. Pastor Mike quoted Lewis Smedes about the deep-rooted issue of pride in us all. Read the quote again (back of page) and share some of the ways that quote exposes areas in your life that you need to repent and trust in Christ.

4. How do you think we go about identifying whether or not we are searching for glory in something created, rather than in the Creator?

5. What are things/habits in your life that might be cultivating and encouraging the proclivity of the heart to search for glory in the created, rather than in the Creator?

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Elder Installment service June 10! We are installing our 5th elder: Peter Ochoa!

CAB Connect June 3 after the 11:00 service.

CROSS REFERENCES

PSALM 115:1-8

Not to us, O Lord, not to us, but to your name give glory, for the sake of your steadfast love and your faithfulness!
2 Why should the nations say, “Where is their God?” **3** Our God is in the heavens; he does all that he pleases.
4 Their idols are silver and gold, the work of human hands. **5** They have mouths, but do not speak; eyes, but do not see. **6** They have ears, but do not hear; noses, but do not smell.
7 They have hands, but do not feel; feet, but do not walk; and they do not make a sound in their throat. **8** Those who make them become like them; so do all who trust in them.

THINGS TO PRAY FOR: that the Spirit would expose where we are searching for glory, that Christ would be our supreme object of worship and glory, that God would use us to show that God is more glorious than anything else.

QUOTE ON PRIDE

“Pride in the religious sense is the arrogant refusal to let God be God. It is to grab God’s status for one’s self. In the vivid language of the Bible, pride is puffing yourself up in God’s face. Pride is turning down God’s invitation to join the dance of life as a creature in his garden and wishing instead to be the Creator, Independent, reliant on one’s own resources. Never does pride want to pray for strength, ask for grace, plead for mercy, or give thanks to God. Pride is the grand illusion, the fantasy of fantasies, the cosmic put-on.

The fantasy that we can make it as little gods leaves us empty at the center. Once we decide we have to make it on our own, we are attacked by the demons of fear and anxiety. We are worried that we cannot keep our balance as long as we carry no more inside our empty heart than what we can put there. We suspect that we lack the power to become what our pride makes us think we are. So we learn to swagger, to bluff, to use symbols to cover up our fears that we lack substance. We force other people to act as buttresses for the shaky ego that pride created by emptying our soul of God. In the words of God’s love song, we become arrogant.

Vanity is emptiness. A person who is empty at the center of life is vain, and a vain person is almost always arrogant. Every new situation calls forth the questions: ‘What can I get out of this to support the need of my ego for power and applause?’ As he encounters new people, he wonders, ‘How can this person contribute to my need for applause and power?’ He projects his own anxieties onto other people, so when others come to him he wonders, ‘What is this person’s pitch? What does he want from me?’ Life becomes a campaign to use people to support oneself and a constant battle to avoid having others use oneself that way. Vanity creates the need to use people because we cannot keep our balance spiritually if we are empty at the center.”

— Lewis B. Smedes, Love Within Limits: Realizing Selfless Love in a Selfish World (Grand Rapids: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1978), pp. 34-35

SERMON NOTES

CHURCH | AT | BERGEN

SATISFIED HUNGER (Habakkuk 2:6-20)

MAJOR POINT:

The source of the Babylonians wickedness is lies within everyone's heart. It is a hunger for glory, which the glory of God alone can satisfy.

CONTEXT IS KEY!

God distinguished two types of people (2:4-5): the puffed-up soul and the soul that trusts in God. This is essential when understanding the 4 woes in verses 6-17, since they flow out of a heart that is puffed up and hungers for glory (which is in all of us).

THE FOUR WOES AGAINST THE CHALDEANS: *GREAT REVERSALS*

- Those they plundered will plunder them (v. 6-8).
- What they look to for security will become insecure (v. 9-11).
- Their civilization will be turned to devastation (v. 12-14).
- Their glory will be turned to shame (v. 15-17).

THE TRUE SOURCE OF WICKEDNESS: *PRIDE AND HUNGER FOR GLORY*

- The 4 woes toward the Chaldeans in v. 6-17 are bookended by v. 4-5 and v. 18-19.
- First bookend (v. 4-5): *pride*.
- Second bookend (v. 18-19): *hunger for glory*.
- The Chaldeans were guilty of idolatry by seeking to have their hunger for glory satisfied in the creat*ed*, not the creat*or*.
- This is important to see as we can be tempted—in our pride—to join God in condemning the Chaldeans when the same pride and hunger for glory resides within all of us.

GOD'S GLORY ALONE SATISFIES US

- Verse 14 is the "flash of hope" in the midst of darkness: "For the glory of the LORD will cover the whole earth like the waters cover the see."
- When we do not find our delight in God's glory, we will search for it in the created, since we were created as worshippers.

CHRIST IS TRUE PICTURE OF HOPE IN THE DARKNESS

- All of the great reversals in v. 6-17 happened to Christ as well.
- When he died on the cross, it looked like all hope was lost, but he rose from the dead.
- When he ascended to the right hand of God, the promise of the Holy Spirit was poured out upon us so that the glory we long for is now in us forever.
- *"God chose to make known how great among the Gentiles are the riches of the glory of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory."* (Colossians 1:27-28)