

# Why Don't You Do Something, God?

Lesson 1 of the series: "Habakkuk: When Trusting God Seems Impossible"

## I. The OT prophet Habakkuk demanded God do something about his nation's rampant corruption, violence, and spiritual decline.

Habakkuk's Complaint: "How long, O Lord, must I call for help? But you do not listen! 'Violence is everywhere!' I cry, but you do not come to save. Must I forever see these evil deeds? Why must I watch all this misery? Wherever I look, I see destruction and violence. I am surrounded by people who love to argue and fight. The law has become paralyzed, and there is no justice in the courts. The wicked far outnumber the righteous, so that justice has become perverted." Habakkuk 1:1-4 (NLT)

*Note:* Habakkuk is one of many "laments" in the Bible.

"lament" = to express deep sorrow, grief, disappointment, or regret

"My soul is in deep anguish. How long, Lord, how long?" Psalm 6:3 (NIV)

*Life Application:* God wants us to bring all of our complaints to Him.

"I cry out to the Lord; I plead for the Lord's mercy. I pour out my complaints before him and tell him all my troubles. When I am overwhelmed, you alone know the way I should turn... I look for someone to come and help me, but no one gives me a passing thought! No one will help me; no one cares a bit what happens to me. Then I pray to you, O Lord. I say, 'You are my place of refuge. You are all I really want in life. Hear my cry, for I am very low. Rescue me... Bring me out of prison so I can thank you. The godly will crowd around me, for you are good to me.'" Psalm 142:1-7 (NLT)

## II. God replied to Habakkuk's demands with an answer that shocked and confounded him.

"The Lord replied, 'Look around at the nations; look and be amazed! For I am doing something in your own day, something you wouldn't believe even if someone told you about it.'" Habakkuk 1:5 (NLT)

A. One reason God doesn't tell us more about the future is because we wouldn't believe Him anyway.

"Peter declared, 'Even if everyone else deserts you, I will never desert you.' Jesus replied, 'I tell you the truth, Peter—this very night, before the rooster crows, you will deny three times that you even know me.' 'No!' Peter insisted. 'Even if I have to die with you, I will never deny you!' And all the other disciples vowed the same." Matthew 26:33-35 (NLT)

"I am raising up the Babylonians, a cruel and violent people. They will march across the world and conquer other lands. They are notorious for their cruelty and do whatever they like. Their horses are swifter than cheetahs and fiercer than wolves at dusk. Their charioteers charge from far away. Like eagles, they swoop down to devour their prey. On they come, all bent on violence. Their hordes advance like a desert wind, sweeping captives ahead of them like sand. They scoff at kings and princes and scorn all their fortresses. They simply pile ramps of earth against their walls and capture them! They sweep past like the wind and are gone. But they are deeply guilty, for their own strength is their god." Habakkuk 1:6-11 (NLT)

B. Another reason God doesn't tell us more about the future is because we probably wouldn't approve of His methods or His plans.

Habakkuk's Second Complaint: "O Lord my God, my Holy One, you who are eternal—surely you do not plan to wipe us out? O Lord, our Rock, you have sent these Babylonians to correct us, to punish us for our many sins. But you are pure and cannot stand the sight of evil. Will you wink at their treachery? Should you be silent while the wicked swallow up people more righteous than they?"

Habakkuk 1:12-13 (NLT)

"From then on Jesus began to tell his disciples plainly that it was necessary for him to go to Jerusalem, and that he would suffer many terrible things at the hands of the elders, the leading priests, and the teachers of religious law. He would be killed, but on the third day he would be raised from the dead. But Peter took him aside and began to reprimand him for saying such things. 'Heaven forbid, Lord,' he said. 'This will never happen to you!' Jesus turned to Peter and said, 'Get away from me, Satan! You are a dangerous trap to me. You are seeing things merely from a human point of view, not from God's.'" Matthew 16:21-23 (NLT)

*Note:* God's ways are nothing like our ways.

"For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways," declares the Lord. "As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts." Isaiah 55:8-9 (NIV)

*Life Application:* We must trust God even when we don't understand Him.

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding. Seek his will in all you do, and he will show you which path to take." Proverbs 3:5-6 (NLT)

"For we live by believing and not by seeing." 2 Corinthians 5:7 (NLT)

"Seek the Kingdom of God above all else, and live righteously, and he will give you everything you need... don't worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring its own worries. Today's trouble is enough for today." Matthew 6:33-34 (NLT)

"Though He slay me, yet will I trust Him." Job 13:15 (NKJV)

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### Connect Group Questions

1. Read Habakkuk 1:1-4. When was the last time you asked God "Why don't you do something?"
2. Read Habakkuk 1:5, Matthew 26:3-5, and Genesis 17:15-17. Why doesn't God tell us more about the future?
3. Read Habakkuk 1:12-13. Describe a time in your life when it was difficult for you to embrace your faith in God because of bad/painful circumstances.
4. The following psalms are known as "psalms of lament" in which the writer pours out his feelings to God:
  - sorrow (Psalm 137)
  - anger (Psalm 140)
  - fear (Psalm 69)
  - longing (Psalm 85)
  - confusion (Psalm 102)
  - desolation (Psalm 22)
  - repentance (Psalm 51)
  - disappointment (Psalm 74)
  - depression (Psalm 88)

Ask everyone in your group to pick one of these psalms and read a few verses out loud. How do you feel about pouring out your true feelings to God the way the Psalm writers did?

5. Read Psalm 142:1-2. Why do you think nearly 1/3 of the psalms in the Bible are psalms of lament?
6. Discuss the following quotation from "Hope in the Dark" by Craig Groeschel:

"What if honestly acknowledging your doubts is your first step toward building a deeper faith? What if embracing your secret questions opens the door for a maturing knowledge of God's character? What if drawing closer to God, developing genuine intimacy with him, requires you to bear something that feels unbearable? To hear him through an ominous utterance, to trust him in the moment of doom, to embrace his strength when you're weak with a burden? What if it takes real pain to experience deep and abiding hope?"
7. Who prays for you during difficult times? For whom do you pray?
8. Read the following verses regarding trusting God. Which verses help you most?
  - Job 13:15
  - Proverbs 3:5-6
  - Matthew 6:33-34
  - 2 Corinthians 5:7