

FBC TODAY

U N L E A S H I N G T H E G O S P E L

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

ARTICLE

Devotions by the Youth:
Habakkuk

Prayer Spotlight

Tamil Ministry Service
Launch – 12 February 2023



FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
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MAIN SERVICE

| Physical & Youtube |

Sundays 8:45am / 11:15am

YOUTH SERVICE

| Physical |

Sundays 8:45am

SUNDAY SCHOOL

For Ages 3 to 12

(Preschool to std 6)

Physical Classes

8:45am / 11:15am

Devotions by the Youth: Habakkuk

Scripture:

Habakkuk 1:2-4

*How long, Lord, must I call for help,
but you do not listen?*

*Or cry out to you, "Violence!"
but you do not save?*

Why do you make me look at injustice?

Why do you tolerate wrongdoing?

*Destruction and violence are before me;
there is strife, and conflict abounds.*

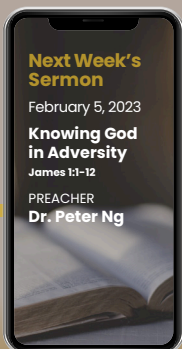
Therefore the law is paralyzed,

and justice never prevails.

*The wicked hem in the righteous,
so that justice is perverted*

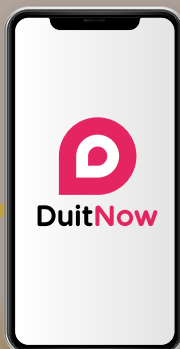
Observation

In this verse, we can see Habakkuk's personal struggle with God. To paraphrase, it sounded like Habakkuk's struggle is along the lines of "God, if you are just, why do you allow evil?"



Pulpit Program

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I personally found this book interesting as it brings a very interesting approach that I have often avoided. Note, the words from this book were not prophesied to the Israelites. It was Habakkuk's personal prayers to God. Hence, what we are seeing right now is a believer's struggle of seeing justice in God.



Rather than keeping it within himself, he brought it forth as complaints to God and I could really feel his pent-up frustration. But was God afraid to answer him? No, because God is bigger than the questions that are circling in our brains that we only use 10% of.

Application

It is difficult to avoid the questions we have for God. Hence, rather than keeping it within us, let's ask God in our prayers because questions about God can also be a sign of struggle in faith.

Prayer

Dear God, you know our struggles and joy but yet prayer exists. Knowing I have questions that are contradictory to who You are, brings disappointment and shame to me to the point I dare not ask You first but ask the people around me first. But through Habakkuk, I learned that You did not shy away from the questions but You answered them without anger or disappointment. I do understand that questions can remain a question forever but this gave me great encouragement and reminders about what I should do next when I have a question. In Jesus' name, Amen.



By Grace Ong

Grace serves in the Youth ministry and attends a discipleship group under Sarah Searle

Scripture:

Habakkuk 2:4

*See, the enemy is puffed up;
his desires are not upright—
but the righteous person will live by His faithfulness*

Observation

Two characters are pointed out in verse 4.

#1. A man whose desires are only to seek pleasure in his own heart is clouded with pride. Some of the pleasures are as mentioned in Habakkuk 2 ~ v6; theft, v9; greed, v12; violence, v15; drunkard, v19; idolatry

#2. A man whose desires are found in God's heart is one that is faithful. He longs for justice (1v12-13)

To both, God replies in the same manner, that judgment awaits and in due time, God's righteousness will be shown. The prideful will be shamed, and the shamed and faithful can take pride in God's promises/revelations.

Application

It's easy to pick one of the two characters. But while reading Habakkuk 2 over and over again, I could develop a third character:-

#3. A man who is indifferent; not longing for justice nor indulging in sin also falls short of God's glory.

It's easy to say that we long for justice, but what kind of justice? We often long for justice when the wrongdoing is directed towards us. But from a wider perspective, most of us (or rather I) don't long for justice upon the wicked if it has no relation to us. I am indifferent.

Prayer

Woe to me who is indifferent. Stir my heart O Lord to seek what you desire. For justice to be shown in the light of your glory. Do not let me stand in comfort when there's so much injustice around. Give me the heart to care for your people. In Jesus' name, Amen



By Ivan Khoo

Ivan serves in the Youth ministry and Campus Ministry with roles such as the discussion group leader, registration team, and youth committee



Scripture:

Habakkuk 3:2

*Lord, I have heard of your fame;
I stand in awe of your deeds, Lord.
Repeat them in our day,
in our time make them known;
in wrath remember mercy.*

Habakkuk 3:17-19

*Though the fig tree does not bud
and there are no grapes on the vines,
though the olive crop fails
and the fields produce no food,
though there are no sheep in the pen
and no cattle in the stalls,
yet I will rejoice in the Lord,
I will be joyful in God my Savior.
The Sovereign Lord is my strength;
he makes my feet like the feet of a deer,
he enables me to tread on the heights.*

Observation

- The final chapter of Habakkuk ends with a prayer, it gives a nice ending to the book, where there is this back-and-forth conversation between Habakkuk and God, with finally, the prophet's faith being declared in his prayer.
- Habakkuk's prayer was full of humility. In verse 2, he knew that Judah could not receive revival, he knew that what they deserved was God's wrath. However, Habakkuk still prayed to God to show mercy in His wrath.

Application

- The question is always: If God is a wrathful god, why should I praise Him? / If the world is filled with so much evil, then why should I praise Him?
- For me, the answer would be in v17-19. Although all these things around me are changing, if one day I wake up and there is no roof on top of my head, and there is no clean water to drink; God will never change.
- Because He has never changed, He is still sovereign. And because He is sovereign, I can ask for His strength.
- Just like Habakkuk's prayer, he rejoices because God is sovereign and never-changing.

Prayer

Dear heavenly Father, although there are many uncertainties in the world right now, I can continue to know that You are a sovereign God. Your wrath is great, but I pray that it does not overshadow my understanding of Your mighty love for me. I pray to always remember that although many things around me change, Your love is still constant. AMEN.



By Amanda Lim

Amanda serves in the Youth ministry and attends a discipleship group under Sarah Searle



Congratulations!

We rejoice with
Ariel Tan & Leong Mun Chun,
grandparents
**Michael Tan &
Aniceta B Valdellonon Tan**
on the arrival of newborn baby boy
Arthur Wayne Leong
born on
17th January 2023.

*Children are a gift from the Lord;
they are a reward from him. - Psalm 127:3*



PrayerSpotlight

Tamil Ministry Service Launch – 12 February 2023

1. God will draw many to come, be saved and be part of FBC's Tamil congregation.
2. God will provide and inspire gifted, well trained musicians and worship leaders to serve in the Tamil service.
3. Pray for Ps Raymond and Peter Raj that God will grant the wisdom to lead the Tamil congregation.
4. Pray that God will enable FBC to meet the needs of the Tamil community in our vicinity.

