

Anatomy of a Godly Complaint

Are You Serious? | Week 04



GROUP DISCUSSION

1. Read the Allen Gardiner story Pastor Roger shared. What sticks out to you as you read?

"One of the most moving pieces of church history I have ever read comes from 1851 where an English missionary named Alan Gardner was shipwrecked with a number of people in a very remote, uninhabitable island just off the tip of South America. Every person died on that island one at a time. From what we can tell, Alan was the last one alive. He kept a journal that recorded his dying words, which was found right next to his body. In the very last entry was a quote from Psalm 34:10 which reads, 'the young lions do lack and suffer hunger, but they that seek the Lord should not lack any good thing.' The last thing he wrote in his journal with people dying all around him, knowing he would never see his family nor fulfill the missionary call on his life was these words, 'I am overwhelmed with a sense of the goodness of God.' Here is a man dying of starvation. His body is broken. All hopes are dashed. He wanted to be a missionary and never got to be a missionary and he says, "I am overwhelmed with the goodness of God."

2. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? Explain your answer.

"Most people infer the good the goodness of God from the good things that happen to us."

3. Read through Habakkuk 3. Identify ways the righteous should live by faith.

4. PRAYING FOR RENEWAL: Explain the stages Habakkuk went through to the prayer we find in 3:1-2. Why does our prayer for renewal need to be about justice, not a "bail out"?

5. REMEMBERING: Habakkuk goes into the Exodus story and recast his generation to the people who lived in that historical epoch. Why is it important to cast our story in the same place as the Biblical epochs? How can we do this properly?

6. REPEATING GODLY HABITS: Read Habakkuk's "I will" statements in 3:18 and highlight what he set his mind to do regularly. Share some of your "I will" practices that you set your mind to do regularly and why are these important to keep doing. Are there any you want to start practicing?

7. REJOICING IN WHO GOD IS: We need to learn how to worship (rejoice) in who God is, not what we need him to do. How much time do you spend asking God for things? How much time do you give for confession? How much time do you give to praising God simply for who He is?