



Teaching Notes: Ray Davis

April 17, 2011

Trusting in Troubled Times

desert breeze community church

Habakkuk 3:1-19

"Joy in Suffering"

Habakkuk is facing an absolute life disaster with joy. When do you and I ordinarily come to the conclusion that "God is good"? How do you access the goodness of God when everything in your life is going wrong?

Joy In Suffering...

1) Happens Concurrently. V16 (Job 1:20-22; Ps. 23:4, 46:1-3; Phil. 4:4; 1 Thess. 4:13, 5:16-18) Joy is not the absence of suffering but the presence of the Savior!

2) Is not a feeling but a discipline.

- ☐ Remind yourself of the LORD'S past works vv1-15 (Deut. 8:11, 14, 19; 1 Sam. 17:36; Phil. 3:1; 2 Pet. 1:12-13)
- ☐ Reflect on the LORD'S beauty and value to you v18 (Ps. 42; Ps 103; Luke 8:22-25)
- ☐ Until you Rest in the LORD (v16) and begin to
- ☐ Relax your grip on anything you can't live without v17 (Luke 10:17-20)

3) Will Produce. V19

- ☐ Clarity in perspective (Phil. 1:21; 2 Cor. 4:16-18)
- ☐ Godly Character (Rom. 5:1-5; James 1:2-4)
- ☐ Closeness to the LORD (2 Cor. 12:8-10)

Habakkuk looks back to the Exodus of Israel and is reminded of the works God reflecting on His beauty until his heart rests in the LORD and relaxes his grip on his idols. You and I can look back to the ultimate Exodus (The Cross) and reflect on the beauty of our Savior dying for us until we rest in Him and relax our grip on the things we think we cannot live without.



Growing

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- 1) Habakkuk is facing an absolute life disaster with joy. When do you and I ordinarily come to the conclusion that “God is good”? How do you access the goodness of God when everything in your life is going wrong?
- 2) Read Habakkuk 3:1-19. What does it mean and how is it possible that you can experience joy at the same time of grief and sorrow (v16)? Joy is not the absence of suffering but the presence of the Savior! How do these verses relate: Job 1:20-22; Ps. 23:4, 46:1-3; Phil. 4:4; 1 Thess. 4:13, 5:16-18?
- 3) What does it mean that joy in suffering is not a feeling but a discipline? In verses 1-16 Habakkuk gives us a recapitulation of the Exodus. How important is reminding yourself of God’s past works to joy in suffering (Deut. 8:11, 14, 19; 1 Sam. 17:36; Phil. 3:1; 2 Pet. 1:12-13)?
- 4) As you remind yourself of God’s past works what does it mean to reflect on His beauty until you rest in Him and begin to relax your grip on anything you think you can’t live without (v17)? Why does Jesus tell His disciples don’t rejoice in the things of this world but in the things not of this world (Luke 10:17-20)?
- 5) What three things will joy in suffering produce in your life (v19)? Which one(s) are you needing most right now? What are some things you can do to increase your joy in suffering for God’s Glory? Pray.