



Sermon Title: When God Doesn't Make Sense

By: Pastor Alan Hannah

Key Scriptures: [Habakkuk 1:12-17] - ¹²O 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. ¹³But 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? ¹⁴Are we only fish to be caught and killed? Are we only sea creatures that have no leader? ¹⁵Must we be strung up on their hooks and caught in their nets while they rejoice and celebrate? ¹⁶Then they will worship their nets and burn incense in front of them. “These nets are the gods who have made us rich!” they will claim. ¹⁷Will you let them get away with this forever? Will they succeed forever in their heartless conquests?

[Habakkuk 2:1-4] - ¹I will climb up to my watchtower and stand at my guard post. There I will wait to see what the LORD says and how he will answer my complaint. ²Then the LORD said to me, “Write my answer plainly on tablets, so that a runner can carry the correct message to others. ³This vision is for a future time. It describes the end, and it will be fulfilled. If it seems slow in coming, wait patiently, for it will surely take place. It will not be delayed.” ⁴“Look at the proud! They trust in themselves, and their lives are crooked. But the righteous will live by their faithfulness to God.

Main idea: Faith is trusting God's heart when you can't see His hands.

Key points:

THE WATCHTOWER: How do we wait without walking away (Habakkuk 2:1)

A watchtower in ancient times was a place of three things:

- **EXPECTATION** – a place where you were looking for something.
- **ELEVATION** – a place to get perspective.
- **ENDURANCE** – a place where you stayed even when nothing was happening.

The watchtower isn't about having all the answers: it's about positioning yourself to receive whatever God wants to show you.

How to live by faith in 5 practical steps:

- 1) Stay in conversation with God
- 2) Remember God's past faithfulness
- 3) Focus on God's character, not your circumstances
- 4) Find community
- 5) Keep doing the next right thing

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Life Group Discussion Questions

WARM-UPS

1. Have you ever followed a recipe to the letter and the dish still turned out terribly? Have you been confused by a recipe and yet it turned out wonderfully?
2. The name Habakkuk means "embrace" and also "wrestle". He was both. Would you say that you're an embracer or a wrestler?

DISCUSSION

1. Habakkuk questioned God and yet trusted Him as he watched and waited. Pastor Alan challenged us to stay in a watchtower posture: trusting God's heart when we can't see His hands. Where is your watchtower, the place where you regularly meet with God? How has staying in conversation with God from your watchtower benefitted you in the past?
2. Historically, these three elements were in play when standing on a watchtower: expectation, elevation (perspective) and endurance (waiting without walking away). Share something you're waiting for, or a perspective change you long for, or a need for encouragement to endure. We want to pray with you about these needs.
3. Habakkuk 2:4, also quoted in Romans 1:17, Galatians 3:11 and Hebrews 10:38, tells us that "the righteous will live by faith". What does that mean? In terms of the Protestant reformation, why was this verse so revolutionary, and why is it such an essential truth?
4. Pastor Alan Quotables: "The sacred art of waiting"; "The watchtower posture"; "agricultural time" (God's schedule); bringing a "consumer mentality to our faith". Choose one and share how you eventually saw that God had been positioning you or deepening your faith.

IN THE WORD

Romans 1:17

Galatians 3:11

Hebrews 10:38

Isaiah 55:8-9

Hebrews 11:1

2 Corinthians 5:7

Proverbs 3:5-6

Matthew 24:42

Luke 12:37-38

PRACTICE

This week, instead of demanding that God make sense to you, ask Him to help you make sense of what it means to trust Him. Build your own watchtower, a place where you regularly meet with God, especially when nothing makes sense.