



April 27

Passage: Habakkuk 1:1-4

Today we are kicking off a walk-through Habakkuk! If you went on one of the Refuel trips you'll remember we spent a ton of time breaking it down.... These devotions will be a time when we put it all together! The hope is to be simple! The story (or oracle v1) of Habakkuk is about a prophet of God who is learning to trust God even when he doesn't understand what God is doing. It's a story that helps us understand God and how he works in his creation.

As we jump in take a moment to pray... ask the Lord to soften your heart towards his Word!

READ & DIG. Read Habakkuk 1:1-4 & take note of anything that stands out!

Have you ever found yourself frustrated with the Lord? This is exactly where we find Habakkuk... He's mad, upset... Why? He feels like the Lord is ignoring him... not listening to him. Have you ever felt like that? Often, we find ourselves in a place where we utter the same words don't we? Read Habakkuk's words again -

V2.) I cry for help - you will not hear...
I cry violence - you will not save....

V3.) You idly look at wrong
V4.) The law is paralyzed, and justice is perverted

These are some big accusations that Habakkuk is bringing against God... He is essentially saying, "God I'm doing everything I can, and you aren't doing anything... WHERE ARE YOU!"

The frustration of Habakkuk encourages us on a few ways:

1. We can talk to God

One of the greatest parts of being a Christian is knowing that we can call on the Creator of all things...literally. One of the benefits of Christ's work on the cross was his work as intercessor... big word for him going to God on our behalf... he made a way for us to be able to communicate with God! But the key to being able to talk with God is being in Christ! You see, our fallenness, our sin is what separates us from God. We are not able to talk to him by ourselves, we needed someone to bridge the gap for us! Jesus has done this for us! *Talk with him!*

2. We can be honest with God

Have you got a best friend who you can be honest with? You can say anything to them, regardless of what it is and they understand. God is like this except to perfection. God desires to have a relationship with his people. Part of this relationship is communication; we've talked about that. But one step deeper into that talking with God is honesty, openness to God. One great truth Habakkuk shows us in our passage today is that we can be honest with God, even in frustration. We can open ourselves up to him: frustrations, disappointments, misunderstandings all of it. *Be honest with him!*

3. God's silence ≠ God's Absence

The age-old question, if a tree falls in the woods and no one is around to hear it does it actually make noise? Well of course it does. It's similar with the Lord - just because you don't hear something doesn't mean something isn't happening. ***God's silence does not equal his absence.*** Meaning, just because you don't get a response doesn't mean he isn't listening, or he isn't working... he is! We'll see that tomorrow. *But today... know he is there and working...*

Apply & GO

So, today is simple... remember if you are in Christ, you can talk honestly with the Creator and even when it doesn't seem like he is listening, he is!

Spend some time in prayer with God right now... be honest with him, he is listening, and he cares.