WEEK OF

JULY 11, 2010

SMALL GROUP

BIBLE DISCUSSION

TOPIC: THE LORD IS IN HIS HOLY TEMPLE

Key Scriptures:
Habakkuk 2:18-20; Habakkuk 3:1-6

Points to Make

- The book of Habakkuk was written by a prophet who lived at the same time as Jeremiah.
- His prophecy basically consisted of a vision and a prayer – a private conversation between himself and God.
- His vision covered territory we deal with every day in the 21st century.
- At first (Chapter 1), Habakkuk wonders why God allows His people to live ungodly lives, seemingly without judgment or sanction.
- God responded by telling him that judgment was on its way, and the Babylonians would be His agents.
- Habakkuk then asks how God could use such wicked, ungodly people to judge Israel who, even in their sin, were more righteous than the Babylonians.
- In Chapter 2, God responded further: It is not right for a person to be proud in spirit. But
- "THE RIGHTEOUS WILL LIVE BY HIS FAITH" (v. 4)
- Those who make money through evil means bring disaster upon themselves. Those who are violent, warlike destroyers bring disaster upon themselves. But:
- "THE EARTH WILL BE FILLED WITH THE KNOWLEDGE OF GLORY OF THE LORD" (v. 14).
- Idolatry brings dire consequences. Disgrace will come upon those who cause others to sin. But:
- "THE LORD IS IN HIS HOLY TEMPLE. LET ALL THE EARTH BE SILENT BEFORE HIM" (v20).
- This silence is one of reverence and submission.
- We must not talk back to God like spoiled children. We must be silent in our spirit. We cannot be silent on the outside while screaming *"NO"* on the inside.
- We must develop the habit of listening to God.
- Here are positive statements of things we must know, understand and do to be pleasing in God's eyes:
- God is holy.

Sermon in a Sentence: We must stand in awe, submission and silence before the holy God who inhabits this Sanctuary.

- His way is best for us.
- We must read His Word.
- We must learn His ways.
- We must settle it in our hearts that if He shows us His way, we will receive it and follow Him – with joy.
- We must submit to God,
  - not to the world.
  - not to the flesh.
  - not to the devil.
- We must worship God, who alone is holy.
- We must bow before God, who alone lives.
- We must obey God, who alone blesses obedience.
- We must lay aside the ways of the world, the glorification of the flesh and human pride.
- In Chapter 3, Habakkuk responds to God with prayer: O Lord, whose ways are everlasting, send us a revival.
- That is still our prayer today.

Discussion Tools

- Has there ever been a time when God's word or actions didn't make sense to you?
- Discuss the responses that we have when we do not understand God's ways.
- What is the most significant thing that you know about God that helps you to accept what He does and how He chooses to do it?
- What was Habakkuk's prayer in Chapter 3? How do we show the same understanding and the same desire in our daily living? (Discuss: what is a "revival"?)

Prayer Time

Lord, we are overwhelmed by Your awesome presence. Please have mercy on us and revive us.

ICE-BREAKER: Have you ever been in the presence of someone, or heard a story about someone who filled you with awe? Who was it and why did you feel that way about them?

NOTES