

INTRO

- When you hear the word ‘hope’ what immediately comes to mind?

READ

Habakkuk 1:2-3 and 3:17-19

In this short series on hope, we are looking to discover how we can have real hope for the real world. None of us is exempt from struggle or pain, but there is a way we can walk through it with hope.

REFLECT & RESPOND

Despite being written over 2600yrs ago, Habakkuk’s struggles are incredibly relevant to us today. Through his journey and struggle with God, we see he comes out of his own disillusionment and despair at the way things are towards genuine trust and hope in God despite the way things are.

Qu: why is lament like we see in 1:2-3 so healthy and essential to our spiritual walk?

By ch3, Habakkuk is a changed man despite the dire circumstances remaining the same. He demonstrates what real hope looks like in 3 critical ways.

1. HOPE’S REALITY

V17 starts with “though...” and goes on to describe the tough reality Habakkuk still faces.

Real hope faces reality.

Qu: do you find it hard or easy to acknowledge your sadness, anger, confusion or doubt to God? Why?

But we don’t stop here.

2. HOPE’S RESOLVE

V18 begins “yet...”. Habakkuk chooses to rejoice in God and his salvation. In other words, **real hope produces a resolve despite the reality**

we face. In fact, to the level we acknowledge our reality is the level we can experience true joy and hope. By trying to ignore, numb or minimize our struggles ends up producing a fake hope and counterfeit joy in light of them.

3. HOPE’S REVELATION

And what is the reason why we can have such joyful, hopeful resolve in the face of our struggles? Because “God, the Lord, is my strength.” **Real hope is grounded not in wishful thinking, blind optimism, or positive vibes but in the truth of who God is and his track record.**

We have an advantage over Habakkuk. We can look back and see God’s goodness and greatness towards us through Jesus. There’s no doubt God is for us, with us, and working on our behalf even when we don’t perceive or feel it. Jesus is our North Star in dark times.

“When we are no longer able to change a situation, we are challenged to change ourselves.”

— Viktor E. Frankl

Qu: As you consider Jesus, how might He use struggles and circumstances in your life to transform you?

RESPOND & PRAY

- Pray for comfort for those facing struggles right now
- Pray for resolve and revelation of God’s presence in each others’ lives.