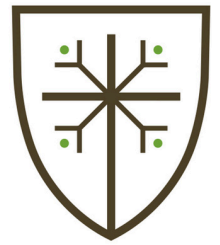


# GOD ON THE MARGINS

*A story of Jonah, Habakkuk, and Esther*

# SERMON NOTES



October 19, 2025

## SERMON INFO

### TITLE

"Taking Joy in Evil Times"

### PREACHER

Rev. Tim Frickenschmidt

### TEXTS

Habakkuk 3  
2 Timothy 1:3-7  
Luke 10:1-3, 17-20

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What are those things God has done or people of faith that you remember in the face of suffering and evil times?
2. Before the evil times come, with what should we be filled up in order to resist evil? How do we help one another as a community to be filled with God's Word and Spirit?

## SERMON IN SUMMARY

This week, Tim finished the book of Habakkuk with the question, "how are we to take joy in the midst of total loss and evil?"

### The Situation

In chapter 2, Habakkuk lays his cry before the Lord but in chapter 3, he provides a song that shows the people of God what it truly looks like to live in faith. He begins to sing this song before the evil times hit from a place of faith that even in the evil times to come, God will not abandon his people. And when they do hit, the people are prepared. They have this song to sing as a reminder of their faithful God.

In verse 17-18, Habakkuk describes the total devastation that is to come. First, the luxuries of life, the figs and wine, will be plundered. Then even the essentials needed for survival, bread and milk and meat, will be gone, leaving them in complete starvation and desolation. Many across the world know what this is like on a cultural level, to be in a place of complete devastation. But all of us, to some degree, know on a personal level.

### The Tension

Habakkuk's song instructs us how to sing to the Lord in evil times. And it does so by presenting a stark contrast between how Habakkuk is feeling and what he is doing in response to God. The Hebrews understood sorrow and fear in a very visceral, embodied way. The song describes a man in total weakness, barely able to stand, what we today would call "sick with fear." But the tension lies in verse 16 with the word "yet." Habakkuk resolves to wait and trust that God will fulfill his promises. He's trembling but also quietly trusting. He is at peace within the very soul that now shakes. The only way he can experience this calm, peace, and rejoicing in the midst of fear is if he has something inside of him that seeps out and resists what is seeking to come in. In verse 18, Habakkuk chooses to rejoice in his God, in Yahweh who always keeps his promises regardless of current circumstances.

### The Content

The song of Habakkuk is a rehearsal of the gospel as he knew it at the time. He goes back and forth between Sinai and Exodus, what God had done in the past. He does this in order to assure him of the future. He actively remembers the works of the Lord.

In our Epistle reading from 2 Timothy, Paul does the same thing for Timothy. When Timothy is wavering in his faith and beginning to feel crushed and in despair, Paul remembers for him, beginning with the people who started him in his life of faith. When we suffer, there also must be these people, both those who remind us of our faith and those Christians who we call to mind as signs of God's faithfulness to us.

Habakkuk's song brings Moses to mind as one to whom God appeared, but we have someone to whom God did not appear. God did not appear to Jesus, he appeared to us in human flesh as Jesus. Jesus did not risk his life in faith but willingly gave it up. He is the one who is in us and who flows out of us in order to resist the evil times and despair that seeks to enter in.