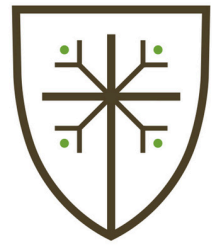


GOD ON THE MARGINS

A story of Jonah, Habakkuk, and Esther

SERMON NOTES



September 28, 2025

SERMON INFO

TITLE

"God's Mysterious Inactivity and Activity"

PREACHER

Rev. Josh Keller

TEXTS

Habakkuk 1:1-6, 12-2:1
Acts 13:38-44
Mark 15:33-39

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What times in your life have you questioned if God is listening or, if so, why he doesn't do something?
2. How can we find hope in God's mysterious answer to Habakkuk?
3. In our times, it is often hard to wait 5 minutes for an answer, let alone accept that we may not see the answer in our lifetime. What gifts does God give us to help us remember and trust in his goodness and faithfulness?

SERMON IN SUMMARY

This week, Josh began the second part of our sermon series in the book of Habakkuk. In Habakkuk, instead of trying to push God to the margins of life like Jonah, we see someone who feels abandoned by God and who can't help but ask why God seems to be doing nothing about evil. Why is he seemingly inactive?

The Complaint

Habakkuk's complaint, issued in the first four verses of the book, consists of both emotional and intellectual components. This is not just reasoning with God, it is Habbakuk's personal cry of "How long, O Lord?" He is overwhelmed by what he is witnessing. And his personal anguish is replicated in the nation. No justice is being done. The wicked use the law to their own advantage. He must question if God is even seeing what he is seeing.

Wrapped up in his emotional complaint is an intellectual concern. If God is pure, righteous and just, does he not want to stop these things? Does he not want good things for his people? The very same questions could be asked today as we look out at our culture and nation.

The Mysterious Answer

God does answer Habakkuk, but it is nothing like what he expected. It is even somewhat mysterious. God's answer is that he will bring in the Chaldeans - often known as the Babylonians - a bitter, hasty, and violent nation, in love with their own power. This nation will take captive God's own people.

What Habakkuk can't see is that the Babylonian captivity will prepare the world for the spread of Christianity and the message of Christ. Many of the Jews captured never returned. They stayed put in these foreign lands and established synagogues which became outposts for the proclamation of the Gospel as it spread through the Apostle Paul. God was acting, but on a different timescale and different purpose than Israel could see. He was cosmically arranging the pieces of history to spread his glor and goodness into the world. He was working on an eternal timeframe. This is also true of our individual lives.

Christ, the only fully righteous man, experienced the ultimate act of injustice. He is the only one who ever truly experiences the silence of God. And through Christ, we can now have full communion with God. We will never have full understanding of knowledge of the eternal end of the things in our lives. So, the question we must ask is "to whom or what do I entrust myself?" Habakkuk is angry and frustrated, but he remains faithful.

Watchpost

Habakkuk goes to wait for God's answer at the watchpost. This wasn't where someone would go who is trying to get answers, like the city gate or the main city center. The watchpost was a place for looking far away, for something you expect to come but don't yet see. It was a place of trusting and expectation, a place of waiting. He trusted that the God who loved him did have an answer even if he didn't see it in his life. The Altar Table is our own watchpost. It is the place we come to be reminded that God takes the evil and broken things of the world, like the death of his Son, and turns them into the very source of life.