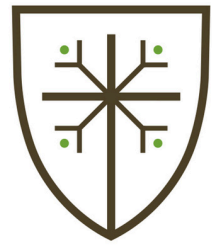


GOD ON THE MARGINS

A story of Jonah, Habakkuk, and Esther

SERMON NOTES



October 12, 2025

SERMON INFO

TITLE

"An Acerbic Song"

PREACHER

Rev. Tim Frickenschmidt

TEXTS

Habakkuk 2
2 Timothy 1:3-9, 12-13
Mark 14:32-36

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. How does it change the way we view our enemies to remember that "if things were different, we could be them" ?
2. In what parts of your life do you see the "insatiability of the human soul" most clearly? Where is the temptation strongest to just keep striving for more?

SERMON IN SUMMARY

This week, Tim continued our look at the book of Habakkuk with chapter 2, God's five-fold taunt against the Babylonians, and the effect that pride has on an entire culture.

The Taunt

Most of Habakkuk 2 is God's song of judgment against the Babylonians. Tim described the tone of this song as "acerbic" - critical, sharp, biting words. This five-fold taunt describes what results when pride takes over a person, or, in this case, an entire nation.

The first taunt is that they hoard what was stolen. They had piles of things they had plundered from other nations. God says that what they have plundered, will in turn be taken from them and more. The second taunt is the drive to grasp and climb. This kind of thinking says that "if I only get that one thing - more money, a better job, more power - then I can do what I want. If I climb high enough, no one can touch me." In so doing, the prideful person cuts off relationships and tramples others underfoot.

The third taunt is the abuse of power. Any power can be abused. It is simply forcing others to bend to your will by using your authority. It is someone who only takes and never gives. The fourth taunt is corrupting others. The prideful soul will always work to bring others into the darkness and brokenness it craves. The fifth and final taunt is justifying sin, trying to make God into our own image rather than remembering that it is we who are made in his.

The Cup

Throughout all these there is a thread of insatiability in the human soul. Nothing is ever enough. Nothing in this world will ever be big enough to satisfy our souls because we were created to only be filled, only be satisfied by God alone. That is what we truly crave. Human pride demands personal glory but we were made for God's glory.

We deserve the cup of God's wrath as much as any of our enemies. If things were different, we could have been in the place of the very people we condemn. But instead, Jesus drank the cup of wrath in order that we might be filled to overflowing with the life of God. The way of the cross is the way of life. But so many of us turn away from it because of what it means for our lives. Only God's grace can enable us to live fully in the midst of suffering, to truly walk in the way of life and peace.