



REFLECT

1. What is your biggest pet peeve?
2. What do you find yourself most frequently grieving as you consider the world around you?

ENCOUNTER

When Habakkuk contemplated the hopeless corruption of the world around him, he could no longer contain himself. “How long LORD, must I call for help and you do not listen or cry out to you about violence and you do not save” (Hab 1:2, CSB).

Habakkuk was uncomfortably honest. Perhaps you’ve assumed or been taught that such honesty to God in the midst of suffering is wrong, faithless, or fear. But scripture is full of faith-filled outcries to God. Jesus himself prayed with great sorrow. Scriptural complaints or laments teach us how to talk to God from a heart of faith rather than fear.

3. Read Habakkuk 1:1-4. According to this week’s sermon, what was the context of Habakkuk? What are key points of Habakkuk’s complaint to God?
4. What is one question you still have about these verses after this week’s sermon?
5. Read Psalm 13 together. What are some life circumstances that you could find yourself praying Psalm 13?

TRANSFORM

6. What’s the difference between faithless complaining and faith-filled lament?
7. Use Habakkuk 1:1-4 or Psalm 13 to model your own honest prayer to God. What sins or injustices (both personal or corporate) might show up in your list?

PRAYER REQUESTS

Recognizing [God’s] designing hand does not make you stoic or dishonest or artificially buoyant. Instead, the reality of God’s design elicits and channels your honest outcry to your one true Savior. God’s design invites honest speech, rather than silencing us into resignation. Consider the honesty of the Psalms, of King Hezekiah (Isaiah 38), of Habakkuk 3. These people are bluntly, believably honest because they know that God is God, and they set their hopes in him.

~ David Powlison, *Suffering and the Sovereignty of God*, page 208 ~