



Stuff They Didn't Teach Me In Sunday School



Episode 095 - If You Could Ask God Anything ... (Habakkuk 1-3)

The prophet Habakkuk wrote his book during the 11-year reign of Jehoiakim, the evil king of Judah. It was a time of injustice and oppression in Judah. So it led Habakkuk to ask Yahweh why He will not step in and do something about it.

- What injustices do you see around you?
- What unfairness have you experienced in your life?

God's answer to Judah's injustice involved the Babylonians whom He would send to punish His people. But along with the ungodly in Judah, who would suffer God's punishment, there were believers in Judah—upright people who would suffer under the Babylonians for what other Jews did. Consider four God-fearing young men: Daniel and his three friends Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego—who were about to be carried off into exile.

- How do you answer when someone asks, "Why do bad things happen to good people?"
- What special care do we need to exercise when speaking about what God is doing about the evil or disastrous things that happen around us?

God told Habakkuk to wait, and promised He would act on His own time, according to His own wise, loving plan.

- Do you think people have become more impatient and demanding, expecting immediate satisfaction in recent years? Why or why not?
- How patient a person are you?
- How can we learn to be more patient as we wait for the Lord to answer our prayers?

The deep mystery of suffering and evil reaches its highest point at the cross of Jesus Christ. It was there the perfect, innocent Son of God suffered for the sins of the whole world.

- How did Jesus show the patience and confidence Habakkuk wrote about?
- How many people were able to see the good God was accomplishing during those dark hours?
- How long did it take for Jesus' followers to see the good God brought out of Good Friday?

God doesn't always spare us from calamity and bitter sufferings. He doesn't always spare His children from crime and injustice. But He has a marvelous way of elevating us above the disastrous situations we endure in life.

- What difficult experiences has God permitted you to endure in your life?
- How has God elevated you above those circumstances?
- How can you encourage other Christians who are going through difficult times?