

SERMON OUTLINE

Five Woes for the Wicked

In this passage, we find 5 specific woes pronounced against the wicked, promising just retributions for their evil deeds.

- I. First Woe: For Ill-Gotten Gain (vs. 6-8)
- II. Second Woe: For Trusting in False Security (vs. 9-11)
- III. Third Woe: For the Futility of Sinful Ambitions (vs. 15-17)
- IV. Fourth Woe: For Exploitation of Others (vs.15-17)
- V. Fifth Woe: For Idolatry (vs. 18-20)

BIBLE DISCUSSION GROUP STUDY QUESTIONS

In preparation for Sunday, November 6, 2016

Passage: Habakkuk 2:6-20

Memory Passage: Habakkuk 2:14

DAY 1— ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) Read Habakkuk 2:6-8 (The First "Woe"). Who are the "these" spoken of in v.6 who take up their "taunt... with scoffing and riddles"? Who is the "him" that is being addressed when they do this?

(b) Who are the "debtors" of verse 7?

(c) What will be the ultimate outcome for him who heaps up wealth that is not his own? Does this happen in the present age or in the final judgement at the end of time?

(d) What reason(s) are given for this outcome?

DAY 2— ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) Read Habakkuk 2:9-11 (The Second "Woe") How does the offender go about attempting to 'set his nest on high'? What is his purpose in doing so?

(b) In what way has the one who gets evil gain for his house devised shame for that same house?

(c) What is meant by the phrase "you have forfeited your life" in verse 10? In what ways do people forfeit their lives in our day?

(d) What idea is being depicted by the imagery of the stone from the wall crying out, and the beam from the woodwork responding?

DAY 3— ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) Read Habakkuk 2:12-14 (The Third "Woe") Explain verses 12 and 13 in your own words. In what way are these verses connected to verse 14?

(b) Who are the "peoples" who are mentioned in verse 13? Is this a reference to the Babylonians only, or does it include others?

(c) How were the ancient Babylonians guilty of "founding a city on iniquity" (v.12)?

(d) When and how will "the whole earth be filled with the knowledge of the Lord" (v.14)?

DAY 4— ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) Read Habakkuk 2:15-17 (The Fourth "Woe") According to verse 15, why is a "woe" pronounced upon him who gives drink to his neighbors? What evil intent lies at the root of his actions?

(b) What is the Lord's response to such people, and how does His response fit their crime?

(c) In verse 16 we find the declaration that "utter shame will come upon your glory." Can you think of other Biblical examples of sinful behavior resulting in shame and disgrace? (See also: Genesis 3:7-10; Psalm 44:9-16; Proverbs 29:15; Luke 15:11-32)

(d) How many different types of violence are condemned in verse 17?

DAY 5— ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) Read Habakkuk 2:18-20 (The Fifth "Woe") In what way(s) is a lifeless idol capable of teaching lies (v.18)?

(b) Even though it might be rare to see someone in our society worshipping an idol in the form of a carved image, are there other ways in which people in our day practice idolatry? If so, how? How might it be possible for idolatry to creep into your own life? What are you doing to guard against it?

(c) How does verse 20 provide a contrast with verses 18 & 19?

(d) What does it mean to "keep silence" before the Lord? How does this command fit with other Biblical passages where we are commanded to "sing," "shout" and make a "joyful noise" before Him? (Psalm 47:1; Psalm 98:4; James 5:13)