

HOW DO I HANDLE THE UNEXPECTED?

- I. **ILLUSTRATION – WILMER MCLEAN (SLIDE 1) – WILMER MCLEAN**
- II. **QUESTION – HOW WOULD I HAVE HANDLED MCLEAN’S SITUATION?**
 - A. HOW DO I HANDLE THE UNEXPECTED IN MY OWN DAILY LIFE? (WHETHER MAJOR OR MINOR INTERRUPTIONS)
- III. **HOW WE OFTEN RESPOND**
 - A. WE GRUMBLE OR EVEN RAGE AGAINST GOD AND OTHERS
 - 1. MINDSET THIS CAN EXPRESS
 - A) WE DON’T REALLY BELIEVE GOD IS SOVEREIGN OVER WHAT HAPPENS, AND WE ARE VICTIMS OF CHANCE (= BAD LUCK)
 - B) WE BELIEVE THAT GOD IS SOVEREIGN, BUT DON’T BELIEVE HE WANTS WHAT IS BEST FOR US, BECAUSE “SURELY I KNOW WHAT IS BEST FOR ME”
 - C) WE BELIEVE GOD IS SOVEREIGN, AND THAT HE KNOWS WHAT IS BEST FOR US, BUT WE HAVE NO DESIRE TO HAVE WHAT IS BEST FOR US SPIRITUALLY, BUT WANT OUR BEST LIFE NOW
 - B. IF I’M HONEST, MY EXPECTATION IN LIFE IS THAT WHEN I’M HAPPY AND COMFORTABLE, GOD WILL KEEP THINGS THAT WAY. WHEN THINGS ARE CHALLENGING, THAT GOD WILL CHANGE IT FOR THE BETTER. MY EXPECTATION IS THAT THE BIG CHANGES IN LIFE WILL ONLY BE FOR A BETTER LIFE NOW.
- IV. **QUESTION – WHAT WILL ENSURE THAT I RESPOND WELL TO THE UNEXPECTED? (CLICK TO SLIDE 2) – SERMON TITLE**
- V. **SERMON TITLE – HANDLING THE UNEXPECTED (HABAKKUK 3:16-19)**
 - A. PROPHET HABAKKUK PROVIDES AN EXAMPLE OF HOW TO RESPOND WELL TO LIFE’S SURPRISES
 - B. MAIN IDEA: RESPONDING WELL TO THE UNEXPECTED DEPENDS UPON OUR FOCUS ON GOD

- C. HISTORICAL BACKGROUND
 - 1. AFTER SOLOMON – ISRAEL SPLIT INTO NORTHERN KINGDOM (ISRAEL) AND SOUTHERN KINGDOM (JUDAH)
 - 2. ISRAEL – WICKEDNESS & IDOLATRY → CONQUERED BY ASSYRIA
 - 3. JUDAH – WICKEDNESS & IDOLATRY → CONQUERED BY BABYLONIANS
- D. HABAKKUK
 - 1. PROPHET IN JUDAH, DURING WICKEDNESS, PRIOR TO BABYLONIANS CONQUERING
 - 2. PROPHET CRIES OUT ASKING FOR GOD TO JUDGE WICKEDNESS AMONG HIS PEOPLE
 - 3. GOD RESPONDS SAYING HE WILL JUDGE VIA BABYLONIANS
 - 4. HABAKKUK IS SHOCKED – GOD WOULD USE MORE WICKED NATION TO JUDGE A LESS WICKED NATION (1:13)
 - 5. GOD RESPONDS BY REASSURING HE WILL PUNISH BABYLONIANS
 - 6. HABAKKUK FINISHES WITH PRAYER AND PRAISE
 - 7. **(CLICK TO SLIDE 3) – SUMMARY OUTLINE**
 - 8. SUMMARY
 - A) FIRST CYCLE (1:2–11)
 - A. HABAKKUK’S LAMENT (1:2–4)
 - B. GOD’S RESPONSE (1:5–11)
 - B) SECOND CYCLE (1:12–2:20)
 - A. HABAKKUK’S LAMENT (1:12–2:1)
 - B. GOD’S RESPONSE (2:2–20)
 - C) HABAKKUK’S PRAYER (3:1–19)
 - 9. **(CLICK TO SLIDE 4) – SERMON POINT #1**
- VI. **SERMON POINT #1 – THE LORD MAY BRING UNWANTED SURPRISES INTO OUR LIVES (VV.16-17)**
 - A. **EXPLANATION**
 - 1. ‘MY BODY TREMBLES’ (V16)

- A) STOMACH CHURNED; INWARD PARTS TREMBLED
 - I. ILLUSTRATION - SICK TO MY STOMACH AT THOUGHT OF BEING SPANKED
- 2. 'LIPS QUIVER' (V16)
 - A) INDICATES PROPHET BARELY ABLE TO SPEAK
- 3. 'ROTTENNESS ENTERS MY BONES; MY LEGS TREMBLE...' (V16)
 - A) STRONGEST PART OF HIS FRAME (BONES) ARE WEAKENED BY THE THOUGHT OF COMING INVASION
- 4. 'TROUBLE' (V16)
 - A) HEBREW – 'TIGHT OR NARROW SPACE'; DISTRESS; ANGUISH; CALAMITY
- 5. VERSE 17 – CLOSE YOUR EYES, AND LISTEN. IMAGINE THE DESOLATION. EVERYTHING YOU'RE DEPENDENT ON FOR SUSTENANCE...GONE
- 6. HABAKKUK IS SHOCKED BY THE NEWS OF COMING INVASION

B. ILLUSTRATION

- 1. I HATE CLOWNS – DUE TO 2ND BIRTHDAY. THE EVENT HAD AN INSTANT AND DEEP IMPACT ON ME. I FREAKED AND CLUNG TO MY MOM
- 2. (CLICK TO SLIDE 5) – CLOWN ENTERS
- 3. (CLICK TO SLIDE 6) – ME AND CLOWN
- 4. (CLICK TO SLIDE 7) – DESOLATE FIELD

C. ARGUMENTATION

- 1. THE LORD WILL ALLOW UNEXPECTED AND UNWANTED EVENTS INTO OUR LIVES. AND WE MAY NOT UNDERSTAND WHY
- 2. THESE EVENTS MAY SHAKE US TO THE CORE AND BE EXTREME, OR THEY COULD BE SUDDEN SMALL

INTERRUPTIONS THAT CHANGE THE COURSE OF OUR DAY

3. EXAMPLES

- A) WORK DAY HIGHJACKED BY UNEXPECTED DUTIES (YOUR PLANS SHOT)
- B) BLOWOUT DIAPERS AT INOPPORTUNE TIMES
- C) CRAZY DRIVERS ON THE HIGHWAY
- D) DIAGNOSED WITH DISEASE
- E) LOSS OF LOVED ONE

4. ISAIAH 55:8-9 – HIS WAYS AND THOUGHTS ARE NOT OURS

5. JOB – GOD NEVER PROVIDES EXPLANATION TO JOB

6. THINK ABOUT ISRAEL'S HISTORY AND THE COMING OF CHRIST. EVEN WHEN PEOPLE GIVEN PROPHECY, MOST OFTEN FULFILLED IN WAYS PEOPLE DID NOT EXPECT

7. (CLICK TO SLIDE 8) – SERMON POINT #2

VII. SERMON POINT #2 - YOUR PERSPECTIVE DRIVES YOUR RESPONSE (V.18-19)

A. EXPLANATION

- 1. 'YET' (V18)
 - A. TERM OF CONTRAST
- 2. 'REJOICE' (V18)
 - A. EXULT; TO BE JUBILANT; DESCRIBES STATE OR ACT OF CELEBRATION; JUMP FOR JOY
- 3. 'TAKE JOY' (V18)
 - A. HEBREW – LITERALLY 'TO CIRCLE IN JOY'; MORE APPLICABLE TO VIGOROUS, ENTHUSIASTIC EXPRESSIONS OF JOY AND CAN EVEN MEAN TO SPIN AROUND
- 4. G. CAMPBELL MORGAN WRITES "HABAKKUK MOVES FROM A DESCRIPTION OF STARK DEVASTATION TO STRIKING DECLARATION OF JOY, FROM ABJECT DESOLATION TO ABSOLUTE JUBILATION, AND ALL THAT IN THE SPACE OF TWO PASSAGES! IN SHORT, THE

PROPHET MOVES FROM A NATURAL REACTION BASED ON HIS FEELINGS TO A SUPERNATURAL REACTION BASED ON HIS FAITH. HIS FAITH IS FOUNDED ON THE REVELATION OF GOD – JEHOVAH’S PLAN, JEHOVAH’S PRESENCE, AND JEHOVAH’S POWER (SEE CH.2-3)”

5. REJOICING IN WHAT? – THE LORD, THE GOD OF MY SALVATION
6. 1 PETER 1:3-9
7. ‘THE LORD IS MY STRENGTH’
 - A. NOT SOMETHING HABAKKUK STIRS UP ON HIS OWN
8. ‘FEET LIKE A DEER’S...’TO TREAD ON MY HIGH PLACES’
 - A. DEER ARE SURE FOOTED ANIMALS, EVEN ON ROCKY CRAGS ON MOUNTAINS
9. HABAKKUK’S PERSPECTIVE HAS DRIVEN THIS RESPONSE OF PRAISE

10. (CLICK TO SLIDE 9) – SUNGLASSES ILLUSTRATION

B. ILLUSTRATION

1. KEN HAMM (ANSWERS IN GENESIS) AND BILL NIGH (SCIENCE GUY) DEBATES ABOUT CREATION AND EVOLUTION. KEN POINTS OUT THAT BOTH CHRISTIANS AND ATHEISTS HAVE SAME FACTS BEFORE THEM. WORLDVIEW DRIVES HOW YOU INTERPRET THOSE FACTS. LIKE WEARING A PAIR OF SUNGLASSES. THE COLOR OF THE GLASSES AFFECTS HOW YOU INTERPRET WHAT YOU’RE SEEING.
2. LIKE THE GLASSES AT LOWE’S, WHEN YOU PUT THEM ON AND LOOKED AT THE CHRISTMAS TREE, IT MADE THE LIGHTS LOOK LIKE GLOWING CANDY CANES OR CHRISTMAS WREATHS
3. WHEN I WAS LITTLE, I WAS AMAZED BY HOW MANY PEOPLE WERE BORN IN 1976, BECAUSE I WAS SURROUNDED BY CLASSMATES MY AGE. I HAD A NARROW PERSPECTIVE, INFLUENCED BY MY IMMATURE MIND AND MY IMMEDIATE SURROUNDINGS

C. ARGUMENTATION

1. HOW WE RESPOND DEPENDS ON OUR PERSPECTIVE.
2. OUR PERSPECTIVE IS SHAPED BY OUR FOCUS; OUR UNDERSTANDING; OUR FAITH
3. WE CAN REJOICE BECAUSE OF...
 - A. WHAT GOD HAS DONE – THE ‘POWER’ MORGAN DESCRIBES (SEE VV1-15)
 - I. HABAKKUK RECOUNTS GOD’S WAYS FOR HIS PEOPLE THROUGH THEIR HISTORY
 - B. WHO HE IS – THE ‘PRESENCE’ MORGAN DESCRIBES
 - I. ‘GOD OF MY SALVATION’
 - II. ‘GOD THE LORD IS MY STRENGTH’
 - C. WHAT HE WILL DO – THE ‘PLAN’ MORGAN DESCRIBES
 - I. THE JUDGEMENT ON JUDAH (CH1)
 - II. THE JUDGEMENT ON BABYLON (CH2)

4. (CLICK TO SLIDE 10) – WHICH LENSES ARE YOU WEARING?

D. APPLICATION

1. WHICH LENSES ARE YOU WEARING IN YOUR DAILY LIFE?
2. SEEING THROUGH TEMPORAL, FLESHLY LENSES?
3. SEEING THROUGH ETERNAL, GODLY LENSES?
4. EXAMPLES
 - A. WORK DAY HIGHJACKED BY UNEXPECTED DUTIES (YOUR PLANS SHOT)
 - I. TEMPORAL LENSES – MY DAY IS RUINED. COMPLAINING AND BITTER
 - II. ETERNAL LENSES – IN HIS SOVEREIGNTY, GOD ORDAINED OTHER WORK TO COME MY WAY. THE LORD HAS PROVIDED EMPLOYMENT FOR ME
 - B. BLOWOUT DIAPERS AT INOPPORTUNE TIMES
 - I. TEMPORAL LENSES – LOSE TEMPER
 - II. ETERNAL LENSES – I’M CALLED TO LOVINGLY CARE FOR MY CHILD, WHO IS COMPLETELY DEPENDENT

UPON ME. MY CHILD IS A BLESSING FROM THE LORD

- C. CRAZY DRIVERS ON THE HIGHWAY
 - I. TEMPORAL LENSES – BLOW UP IN ANGER. CURSE. ROAD RAGE
 - II. ETERNAL LENSES – GOD CREATED THAT PERSON IN HIS IMAGE. REVENGE IS THE LORD’S. HE WILL JUDGE. PRAY FOR THAT PERSON
- D. DIAGNOSED WITH DISEASE
 - I. TEMPORAL LENSES – ANGER, BITTERNESS, COMPLAINING
 - II. ETERNAL LENSES – HE WORKS ALL THINGS FOR THE GOOD OF THOSE WHO LOVE HIM, AND ARE CALLED ACCORDING TO HIS PURPOSE. HE IS MAKING ME LIKE CHRIST, THROUGH SUFFERING
- E. LOSS OF LOVED ONE
 - I. TEMPORAL LENSES – ANGER, DESPAIR
 - II. ETERNAL LENSES – GOD IS GOOD IN ALL THINGS. DRAW CLOSER TO HIM
- 5. TIPS FOR HANDLING THE UNEXPECTED
 - A. REMEMBER THE MODEL HABAKKUK PROVIDES
 - I. WHAT GOD HAS DONE – CHANGED YOUR HEART
 - II. WHO GOD IS – HIS ATTRIBUTES
 - III. WHAT HE WILL DO – FUTURE REDEMPTION (REV. 21:1-17)
 - B. HOW TO THINK – PHILIPPIANS 4:8

VIII. CONCLUSION

- A. HABAKKUK 2:4 – THE RIGHTEOUS SHALL LIVE BY HIS FAITH
 - A. IF WE ARE STUDYING AND MEDITATING UPON GOD’S WORD, THAT FOCUS WILL RESULT IN THE RIGHT PERSPECTIVE ABOUT LIFE. THAT PERSPECTIVE WILL RESULT IN THE RIGHT RESPONSE WHEN THE UNEXPECTED COMES OUR WAY. A RESPONSE OF

PRAISE, BECAUSE WE TRUST IN WHAT GOD HAS DONE, WHO HE IS, AND WHAT HE WILL DO.

- B. WILLIAM COWPER’S POEM – “JOY AND PEACE IN BELIEVING”

*THOUGH THE VINE NOR FIG TREE NEITHER
THEIR WONTED FRUIT SHALL BEAR,
THOUGH ALL THE FIELD SHOULD WITHER,
NOR FLOCKS NOR HERDS BE THERE:
YET GOD THE SAME ABIDING,
HIS PRAISE SHALL TUNE MY VOICE;
FOR, WHILE IN HIM CONFIDING,
I CANNOT BUT REJOICE.*