

LET ALL THE EARTH KEEP SILENCE BEFORE HIM

HABAKKUK 2:6-20 // TODD DUGARD
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When the LORD is at work, be silent (2:20b) and watch him finally and fully deal with sin (see below) while establishing his glorious presence on the earth (2:14, 20a).

- *The pursuit of riches (2:6-8)*
- *The abuse of power (2:9-11)*
- *The exploitation of people (2:12-13)*
- *The embracing of immorality (2:15-17)*
- *The devotion to false gods (2:18-19)*

GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Have you had the experience of being instructed to just be quiet and listen? Why do we need to temporarily press pause on the noise we make about life's struggles?

The passage condemns five human activities that are present all over the world. The next questions will guide your reflection on each subject.

- How did the people pursuing wealth commit their sin? (See Habakkuk 2:6). How does Jesus instruct people regarding the use of multiple possessions and profiting from the financially vulnerable in Luke 3:10-14?
- What do you think leads to abuses of power? How does Psalm 2:7-10 inform a believer's understanding of how to handle authority in a better way?

- Nations wrestle with the unrest associated with long histories of exploiting people. Do you think you've contributed to unrest or to the reconciliation? How does God's word teach you to see everyone with full value and not simply as means to a selfish end? (Consider the commonality proclaimed by Romans 3:23, 6:23 and Colossians 3:11.)
- How do you live among a Babylon-like culture that brazenly embraces immorality without adopting tolerance to these things in your own life? What does purity look like for a person surrounded by immorality? What did Jesus mean when he explained that what comes out of man is what defiles him morally?
- In North American culture people worship at the altar of idolized ideas more than literal idols. Sometimes the "idols" look like a healthy and happy family, a notable career, a cottage retreat, a wonderful set of admirable friendships, etc. Do you recognize any idolatry in your life? What do you think God wants you to adjust about your priorities?
- Finally, is your relationship with God at this point in your life defined more by what you say to him, or by what he has said to you? If your prayer is heavy with complaining, how can you keep moving toward practices of keeping silence before God?