

Title: **Wait for It . . .**
Text: **Habakkuk 2:1-5**
Date: **July 10, 2022**

Find the sermon manuscript to follow along with online at mercyhillchurch.org.

Big Idea

Christianity is not microwaveable. There's not always instant gratification. Sometimes the promises God makes take time to come to fruition. Sometimes we have to wait.

You don't like to wait. Nobody does. And yet, God says, we're going to have to. Waiting is a critical part of the disciple's life. Waiting is a critical part of the walk of faith. Waiting is a critical part of this path towards joy in God even in the midst of hardship.

1. The Vision (vv. 2-3)

On the one hand, the fact that God wants Habakkuk to carve this vision into tablets communicates something of the permanence of it. But on the other hand, the durability of this material also implies something of its distant fulfillment.

There's this vision God gives Habakkuk here. And it's sure. But it's not yet fulfilled. He sees with his ears, but not yet with his eyes. With his ears he sees a future where Babylon is undone and God's people are restored. With his eyes he sees a world coming unglued, the fig falling off the tree, the enemy quickly approaching in a cloud of dust off on the horizon. Exile is coming.

2. The Choice (v. 3)

What do we do when what we see with our ears in God's Word seems to be contradicted by what we see with our eyes out in this world? The choice is essentially boiled down to two options for us there in v. 4.

Option number one, to put it simply, is this: rely on yourself. That's what it means to have a "puffed up" soul. "I've got this. I don't need God. If I see a problem, I'll fix it myself. If there's something I want, I'll go out and get it myself."

The second option comes there in that contrast given to us at the end of this verse: "[B]ut the righteous shall live by his faith." This second option entails turning away from self-reliance and trusting in God and his Word and his promise.

In other words, if I could boil it down even further to connect what we have here with what we've been saying to this point: the choice is between either waiting on God . . . or not.

And oh how hard this is. When you're in the thick of trial, when you see his Word and it's not lining up with the world; when you're hurting and you don't want to wait any longer . . . you'll be tempted to puff up that soul and take things into your own hands.

3. The Result (v. 5)

If you stop waiting on God and you leave him to go get it yourself, to go work out your own redemption, listen: the key that you think is going to open the door to greater joy ends up locking you inside a prison cell of deeper despair. You think with all your labor—shovel to dirt—you're building something, but you come to find out: you're digging your own grave.

If we give up waiting on the Lord we shall find our strength sapped and we will run ourselves into the ground. But if, in the face of whatever hardship and trial, we resolve yet still to wait, we shall find our strength renewed and we will run and not grow weary: *"Even youths shall faint and be weary, and young men shall fall exhausted; but they who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint"* (Isa. 40:30-31).

Reflection Questions

- Describe your relationship with waiting. How do you feel about it? How do you usually respond to it? Why?
- Why would God make us wait? If he can make things happen instantaneously, why doesn't he? Try to use Scripture in your answer.
- What's one promise from the Word of God that you "hear with your ears" but don't yet see with your eyes? How would waiting on God for this promise by faith help you "run and not be weary" even today?

W

E

L

C

O

M

E

SCAN TO FILL OUT A

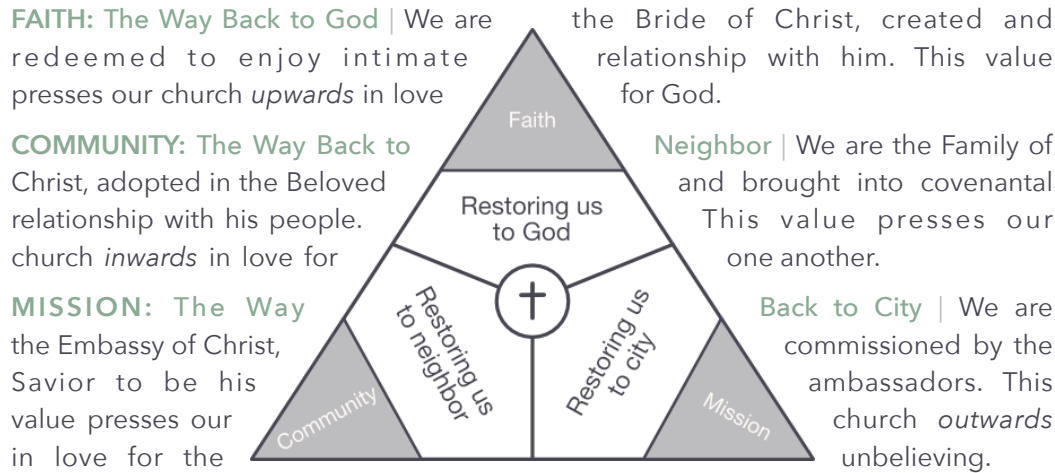


CONNECTION CARD

Give online at mercyhillchurch.org/give or text any amount to 84321 and follow the prompts.

Our Mission & Values

Mercy Hill Church exists to help restore us to God, neighbor, and city through the good news of Jesus Christ.



Your Next Steps

When approaching the Christian faith and life, it can be confusing to know where to even begin. Come find us at the Next Steps Table after the service—it would be our joy to help you along in the journey! And if you're a visitor, we have a special gift bag for you. Don't miss it!



Mail: PO Box 23806, San Jose, CA 95153
Phone: (408) 320-7080
Email: info@mercyhillchurch.org
Web: mercyhillchurch.org



Welcome to Mercy Hill Church.
We are so glad you've joined us today!

Announcement Spotlight

Mercy Hill Youth - Graduation Celebration!

You are all invited to come celebrate our high school graduates—as well as welcome our incoming 6th graders to Mercy Hill Youth—today after our worship service (approx. 11:45am to 12:30pm). Come join us as we celebrate our graduates with sharing, prayer and gifts! Light refreshments will be provided as well. This is open to not just youth and parents but the whole church family!

If you have any questions, feel free to contact us at youth@mercyhillchurch.org.

Next Steps Spotlight: Walk the Sacred Path

You were created for God—to be known and loved by him and to know and love him in return. Engaging in this relationship ought to be the chief business (and delight!) of our lives. And today, as we likely well know, we can cultivate this relationship by reading our Bibles and praying. And yet, if we're honest, many of us simply don't do these things. For some, it may be because we're just lazy or uninterested. But for others, it could be that we genuinely want to but we get tripped up and don't know how. The Bible is a big book and it's not always easy reading. And prayer, while exhilarating at times, is often awkward and even dull. We need help. And that is why we've developed what we call the "Sacred Path."

We've created a Next Steps Resource to help you travel along this path and lead you deeper into relationship with God through Christ! Check it out and feel free to share with others!

We have hardcopies of this booklet available at the Next Steps Table in the back, but you can also grab an electronic copy online by scanning the QR Code below.

For clickable content and more announcements,



scan this code to head to our Communications Hub!

Or find it online at mercyhillchurch.org/communications-hub.