

1 Peter 4:1-11 Don't Waste Your Life

- 1)** How can you tell what is really important to you?

- 2)** Many people complain that life is too short, but then they live like life has no end. Why is that?

- 3)** Is it possible to kill time without injuring eternity?

- 4)** Read Psalm 90:12 how does this relate to 1 Peter 4:1-11?

- 5)** What does Psalm 39:4-5 say about our lives?

- 6)** What does James 4:14 say about our lives?

- 7)** Charles Francis Adams, the 19th century political figure and diplomat, kept a diary. One day he entered: "Went fishing with my son today—a day wasted." His son, Brook Adams, also kept a diary, which is still in existence. On that same day, Brook Adams made this entry: "Went fishing with my father—the most wonderful day of my life!"
 - a)** The father thought the day wasted the son thought the day well spent; who was right?

 - b)** Why did they have this different opinion of the same day?

 - c)** What made the difference?

- 8)** What are some of the characteristics of a wasteful life (v.2-4)?

- 9)** Do your unbelieving friends "think it strange" (v.4) or is your life much like theirs?

- 10)** What is one thing from 1 Peter 4:7-11 that you can apply to your life?

Habakkuk 1-2 LA

Monday (1:1-4) Habakkuk begins by calling what he saw a “burden.” It is certainly easy to understand that he was burdened; notice the language in these first four verses. “How long shall I cry and You will not hear?” “You will not save.” Notice also how everything Habakkuk says is stated as a question. Habakkuk was genuinely grieved and as a result he was questioning God. Notice the kind of things that were grieving him: iniquity, trouble, plundering, violence, strife, contention, perverse judgment, all things that are contrary to God’s word. Do you think it was right for Habakkuk to be grieved? Was it right for him to cry out to God about what he saw?

Tuesday (1:5-11) Verse five begins God’s first answer to Habakkuk, in other words, verse 5-11 is God speaking to Habakkuk. God’s answer to Habakkuk was that He was about to deal with all of the sins that Habakkuk saw in Judah. God was about to raise up the Chaldeans (Babylonians) and they would come to Judah as an arm of God’s judgment. You may remember from other parts of the Bible that Nebuchadnezzar did invade and conquer Judah. You may also remember from the books of Jeremiah, Daniel and some of the other minor prophets that this judgment was particularly severe. Do you think that is what Habakkuk had in mind when he first began to petition God?

Wednesday (1:12-17) This section is Habakkuk’s follow-up question to God. You see God had thoroughly answered Habakkuk’s original complaint, but He had not answered in a way that Habakkuk expected or even agreed with. Notice that Habakkuk was struggling to understand how God could be so pure and perfect and yet there was so much evil in the world. Now he couldn’t understand how God could use a nation that was so evil as His arm of judgment. How would you answer Habakkuk’s question in verse 13?

Thursday (2:1) Habakkuk decided to take some time to think about all that was transpiring. He had a good attitude in that he was waiting to be corrected by God. I think that is likely why God was so merciful and gracious to Habakkuk, he was genuinely struggling to understand how God was interacting with His people. Habakkuk must have thought – maybe I will understand when I see what God does, how He acts, and how it all works together. The right attitude to have when you don’t understand what God is up to is this; patiently wait on the Lord and trust Him in whatever He decides to do.

Friday (2:2-4) God again begins His response by addressing Habakkuk’s concerns; He says the judgment will come, it will come soon and you can count on it. Habakkuk began by asking God why it was taking so long for Him to deal with the sin of Judah, and now God was answering “I am about to act – count on it.” Notice also how He tells Habakkuk that it is not the appearance of righteousness that matters with God (as in v.13 Habakkuk had a wrong view of righteousness) but it is the heart that God cares about “the just shall live by faith.” True faith is always evidenced by an outward response of obedience “shall *live* by faith.” It is one thing to call yourself a child of God but it is another thing to live for Him.

Saturday (2:4-20) This is the section where God details His coming judgment on Judah. Notice that this section is punctuated by five “woes.” Woe is a prophetic term which indicates a pronouncement of God’s judgment. It goes something like this; if you disobey God’s revealed will “woe” to you, or you will experience something bad (God’s judgment). God will not allow His people to live happily in sin. Life can be boiled down to a simple principal – do God’s will life will be (generally speaking) very good, disobey God’s will and woe to you, or you will reap the fruit of disobedience.