

How long, O Lord?

cries the prophet Habakkuk. His lament echoes the heart of anyone who has ever waited for justice, healing, or clarity. We hear his anguish: violence, ruin, misery, discord. And yet, God responds not with immediate intervention, but with a vision—a promise that “presses on to fulfillment... it will not disappoint”.

Fast forward to today’s Gospel, where the apostles ask Jesus, *Increase our faith!* It’s a noble request but notice that Jesus doesn’t offer a quick spiritual upgrade. Instead, He speaks of mustard-seed faith—tiny, yet potent—and then pivots to a parable about humble service. **The message is clear: faith isn’t about grandeur. It’s about trust, obedience, and perseverance.**

Habakkuk teaches us that faith begins in lament. It’s not denial of suffering, but a refusal to let despair have the final word. And God’s response—*Write down the vision*—invites us to live by hope, even when the timeline is unclear. The just one, says the Lord, *shall live by faith*.

This notion of living by faith is especially relevant in our time. Whether we’re waiting for renewal, healing, deeper engagement or the answer to a prayer; whether we’re waiting for a change of job, a change of scenery, or a change of structure, we must remember: **faith is not passive. It waits actively, with eyes fixed on God’s promise.**

Further, Habakkuk’s lament—*Why do you let me see ruin?*—can be heard today in the cries of creation. Forests razed, oceans choked, species lost. The prophet’s grief mirrors our own when we witness environmental degradation.

But God's response is not despair—it's vision. A promise that justice will come, and that the earth will be renewed.

Active waiting, then, includes ecological hope. It means planting trees even when we won't see their shade, reducing waste even when the impact feels small, and teaching our children to love the earth as God's gift even if we think that our one family cannot make a difference. I'm proud to tell you that have planted more than 300 trees since my arrival here ... I invite you to donate a tree so that we can get to the goal of 500!

"Waiting actively" is one of those paradoxes that sits at the heart of Christian discipleship—especially in light of Habakkuk's lament and Jesus' teaching that we hear today in Luke 17.

It's not passive resignation. It's not spiritual idling, where we say, "God will take care of it," and then disengage from the world, the parish, or our responsibilities. Nor is it anxious striving, trying to force outcomes before their time. I think waiting actively means:

1. Living with Expectant Hope

Active waiting means believing that God is at work—even when we can't see it—and orienting our lives toward that promise.

2. Continuing to Serve

Jesus reminds us that faith is expressed in humble obedience. The servant doesn't stop working just because the master hasn't praised him. Likewise, we keep showing up: worshipping, praying, supporting and engaging – despite sometimes not feeling completely satisfied.

For me it means preaching, visiting the sick, preparing liturgies, writing stewardship letters and thank you's—even when results sometimes feel slow or unseen or unappreciated.

3. Praying and Listening Active

We pray not just to speak, but to listen. We ask, “Lord, what are You doing in this delay?” and “How can I be formed in this season?” It's a time of interior growth, not stagnation.

4. Preparing for Fulfillment

In short, waiting actively is a posture of faith that combines trust in God's timing with faithful engagement in the present. It's the spiritual equivalent of planting seeds while watching the horizon.

Jesus' parable reminds us that faith is expressed in duty, not drama. The servant doesn't expect applause for doing what was commanded. Likewise, we are called are all called to serve—each in our own way, not for recognition, but out of love.

This challenges our culture of entitlement. In the Church, we don't serve to earn favor; we serve because we belong to Christ. As stewards of His mission, our response is: “We have done what we were obliged to do” ... and that's surely countercultural!

The apostles wanted more faith. Jesus offered a deeper truth: it's not the quantity of faith that matters, but its authenticity. Even mustard-seed faith can move trees—if it's rooted in trust.

This is a powerful message especially for those here among us who are facing personal trials, health concerns, or transitions in life. Faith doesn't always feel strong. But when it's real—when it trusts God's timing, serves without fanfare, and waits with hope—it becomes transformative.

This week, I invite you to:

1. Name your lament. Name what or who makes you cry. Like Habakkuk, bring your honest questions to God.
2. Serve quietly. Find one way to offer humble service without seeking recognition. We have plenty of opportunities here in the parish especially with the holidays coming.
3. Trust the vision. Write down a hope or promise you're waiting on—and revisit it in prayer.
4. Do something positive to help preserve creation ... again perhaps even join us in our tree planting initiative or plant a tree of your own on your property.

I pray that the Lord will increase our faith—not in size, but in depth. Teach us to wait with hope, serve with humility, and trust with courage. May our mustard-seed faith grow into a witness – a personal witness and a parish witness that moves hearts, heals wounds, and builds God's Kingdom here in Summit ... and beyond.

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