

**Have you ever felt like Habakkuk?**

**He is arguing with the Lord**

**How long?**

**Our enemies are getting stronger**

**They are conquering us**

**They are driving us from our land**

**God, are you listening?**

**Do you care?**

**Why don't you do something?**

**This feels familiar, doesn't it?**

**How long, O'Lord?**

**When we look at the world today**

**Millions of abortions every year**

**Terrorists**

**Suicide bombers**

**al-Qaida**

**Sexual abuse of minors**

**Tsunami's**

**Hurricanes**

**Disasters; both man-made and natural**

**How long?**

**We mimic Habakkuk's cry**

**God answered him**

**He answers our cries as well**

**But in His way and in His time**

**The Lord offers Habakkuk three things**

**First, He says the kingdom will surely come**

**The kingdom is God's vision, his plan for the world**

**If it delays God says to wait**

**Second, write it all down for people to read**

**Sacred Scripture has a message for us**

**It is not just something to pull out on Sunday's**

**At weddings or funerals**

**SS contains God's Wisdom**

**Study it so you can live it**

**Third, the just person**

**Because of our faith in God's vision**

**Because of our faith in the kingdom**

**We will be saved**

**These same three points serve us well today**

**We all need to have the vision of God guide our lives**

**Whatever is happening in the world today**

**We don't have to accept it as it is**

**The violence**

**The attacks on human life**

**The attacks on religious freedom**

**Just because this is the way the world is today**

**It does not mean we have to accept that is the way it will remain**

**When God's vision prevails**

**Incredible things can happen**

**In the lives of nations and in the lives of individuals**

**When we have this vision**

**We identify things in our lives**

**And we set about changing them**

**A defeatist attitude says I have a disability**

**I am a sinner**

**I am worthless**

**There is nothing I can do about it**

**God's vision looks at these very same things**

**And asks what can Christ do with these them?**

**What can I become in Christ?**

**There are many visions in our world**

**And all it takes is a video camera and internet access**

**And anyone can put theirs out there for the world to see**

**There are good visions and not so good ones**

**Republicans and democrats have their visions**

**Hitler had a vision**

**So did our founding fathers**

**Islam has a vision**

**Christianity has a vision**

**Which vision shapes my life?**

**Which vision will shape the future of our nation?**

**Of the world?**

**Having the vision is only a beginning**

**Then we have to plant that vision**

**This is what is behind having a faith the size of a mustard seed**

**The smallest of seeds**

**If you have a seed, it does no good to put it on a shelf**

**Take it out on Saturday evening or Sunday morning**

**Let it get a bit of air once a week**

**Maybe peek at it for a baptism, a wedding or a funeral**

**That is not what a seed is for**

**It is not what our faith is for**

**For a seed to do what it is meant to do**

**Give new life**

**It has to die**

**It has to get planted in the dirt**

**Rot and be watered and warmed by the sun**  
**Then it sprouts and gives new life**  
**From a single mustard seed produces so many new seeds**  
**It is almost uncontrollable**

**When we plant our faith in God's garden**  
**The same thing happens**  
**The faith of one ignites the faith of another**  
**Then another and another**

**Our faith is planted and grows through humility**  
**It grows when we die to ourselves**  
**When our ego is put in check**  
**This self-sacrificial love we are called to live**  
**By our actions and choices**  
**In our moral decisions**  
**In how we spend our money**  
**In the movies we choose to watch**  
**In what we allow into our homes through the TV or the internet**

**In the causes we promote and become involved with**  
**Forgiving others**  
**Forgiving ourselves**  
**Studying the Bible**  
**Learning about our faith**

**PRACTICING our faith**

**In every moment of our lives**

**Doing this, we enter into the third step**

**Trusting that God's vision will give us life**

**Through faith we will be given the grace we need**

**To live and to love as we are called to**

**To be in control rather than be controlled**

**How many people are there today that simply follow?**

**Seeing others cheat, they cheat**

**Seeing others gossiping, they gossip**

**Seeing others not going to Sunday Mass**

**They take no interest in it themselves**

**Seeing others lie, they lie**

**Hearing others using the Lord's name in vain**

**They follow suit**

**Seeing others giving up on a marriage when problems arise**

**They give up on their own**

**Seeing others living together or choosing to marry outside the Church**

**They choose to do something similar**

**Seeing others reject Church teaching on the sanctity of human life**

**Practicing contraception**

**Promoting embryonic stem cell research**

**And we go along because we don't want to rock the boat**

**God knows**

**He knows the evil of gangs**

**The evil of abortion**

**The evil of terrorism**

**He knows the greatest evil ever committed by human beings**

**The crucifixion of His Son**

**His ways are hard for us to fathom**

**Because they are mysterious to us**

**The God of all time, all people, all nations**

**He sees what we are blind to**

**He is in charge, working out His purpose**

***The just man shall live by faith***

**It takes faith to go against the tide**

**Especially when the loudest voices are telling us everybody is doing it**

**Faith gives us self-control**

**It gives us a long-term view over the present moment**

**It calls us to make loving choices**

**It allows us to let the ego die**

**Not living self-absorbed lives**

**It helps us see that what our families can become**

**What our parish can become**

**What our city, state and nation can become**

**God's Word to Habakkuk speaks to our own violent world**

**Let His vision lead us past the status quo**

**Plant his vision in our lives through concrete actions**

**Trust that this vision will give us the power to change our lives**

**The power to change our church**

**The power to build the kingdom here**

**As we wait for its fulfillment at the end of time**