

'The Shift!'

Introduction:

Matthew Perry quote¹

Being in a kitchen always brings to mind God. He showed up in a kitchen, of course, and in so doing so, saved my life. God is there for me now. Its hard to believe, given everything, that he still shows up for us mortals, but he does, and that's the point - love always wins.

Perry says he once prayed *"God you can do whatever you want to me. Just make me famous"*. He adds: The idea of being famous, the idea of being rich, the idea of being me, I can't enjoy any of it unless I'm high. I lack a spherical connection that protects me from these feelings. That's why I'm a seeker.

- David McCracken well known Australian prophet describes the 2020's as the start of a new Era. A shift is happening and more to come.
 - Era= a System of time, A distinct period of history.
- It is different from a season in that it is a longer period of time.
- It doesn't matter what season or era we are in, we need to ask our heavenly Father: 'What do you say? What is your agenda?'

Introduction to Habakkuk

- Habakkuk – a temple singer of the tribe of Levi
 - Name means *'love's embrace / strong embrace of God'*.
 - Comforted his people as one drying tears of a child.
 - He had some questions about the state of his world/community.

Habakkuk 2:2 *'Then the Lord replied: "Write down the revelation and make it plain on tablets so that a herald may run with it...."'*

- Run with it= To be so inspired that you are energised to carry and speak the revelation.

¹ From Matthew Perry memoir "Friends, Lovers and the Big Terrible Thing".

1. Feel or own:

- This is sometimes called a burden.
 - ‘Burden’ – something that is carried; responsibility; concern; worrisome.
- Habakkuk 1:2-4** *‘How long, O Lord, must I call for help, but you do not listen? Or cry out to you “Violence!” but you do not save? Why do you make me look at injustice? Why do you tolerate wrong? Destruction and violence are before me; there is strife, and conflict abounds. Therefore, the law is paralysed, and justice never prevails. The wicked hem in the righteous, so that justice is perverted.’*
- Before God blesses you with a plan of action, he will burden you with a problem you have been called upon to help solve.
 - God’s purpose is not to weigh us down, but to feel another’s pain.
 - Then we bring it to the one carried our sorrows (Isaiah 53.4-6)

2. Desire:

- Desire’ – wish for, long for, yearn for; desire to see something happen.
- Habakkuk prayed and God answered but not in the way he expected.

Habakkuk 1:5 *‘Look at the nations and watch – and be utterly amazed. For I am going to do something in your days that you would not believe even if you were told...’*

- Looked good at the start, but shaking was to follow.
- Question= Can God use calamity or ungodly people to bring about His purposes?
- Are Gods purposes always good?
 - He was going to use ‘a feared and dreaded people’ (v7) ‘whose own strength is their god’ (v11)
 - Because God is sovereign, he has the big picture.
- The Hebrew Christians faced hardship and persecution and needed to be reminded of the kingdom they are part of.

Heb 12.22-24,28 *But you have come to Mount Zion, to the heavenly Jerusalem, the city of the living God. You have come to thousands upon thousands of angels in joyful assembly, to the church of the first born, whose names are written in heaven. You have come to God, the judge of all men, to spirits of righteous men made perfect, to Jesus the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel. Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us be thankful, and so worship God acceptably with reverence and awe.*

Habakkuk 2:1 – *‘I will stand at my watch and station myself on the ramparts; I will look to see what He will say to me, and what answer I am to give to this complaint.’*

- Position yourself.
- Hear what God is saying.
- Consider my response.

3. Passion:

- ‘Passion’ – fervour, ardour, obsession, excitement, enthusiasm, zeal, delight,

Lewis Braille wanted to read and write. But at three years of age, he was blinded in a tragic accident while playing in his father’s harness shop. Refusing to settle for a world of darkness, he said, ‘I will make a system so that the blind can read and write.’ As a result, millions of sight-impaired people have been blessed by the BRAILLE system.

- King David said:

Psalms 69:5-9 - *‘You know my folly, O God; my guilt is not hidden from you. May those who hope in you not be disgraced because of me, O Lord Almighty; may those who seek you not be put to shame because of me O God of Israel. For I endure scorn for your sake and shame covers my face. I am a stranger to my*

brothers, an alien to my own mothers' sons; For zeal for your house consumes me, and the insults of those who insult you fall on me.'

- David was aware of his weakness.
 - His attitude was not to bring disgrace on believers.
 - zeal for God's house consumes. His love for God's presence was paramount.
 - In OT, God's presence was focused around the tabernacle and the temple.
 - In the NT God's presence is within us by his Holy Spirit and is manifested in the assembly of God's people. *This is why we feel the insult when God is insulted.*
 - *Our response to insult is the same as Jesus "Father, forgive them, because they know not what they do."*
 - David was scorned in public when he prayed and fasted and even psalms of derision were sung in drinking houses.
 - David did not have the revelation that Jesus brought about forgiveness, so don't follow his example in the rest of the Psalm.
 - David's zeal for God's house / presence transformed worship and praise
- Acts 15:16** *'restore again the tabernacle of David...'*
- Paul's passion was to reach His world for Christ.
 - Even imprisonment could not stop him.

Conclusion:

- There is a shift in our society.
- What is God saying? What's on His agenda.
- Before you can write the revelation/Godly insight, you must feel /own it.
- Once received run with it.