



THE MOST IMPORTANT QUESTION

KEY SCRIPTURE | Habakkuk 2:2–20

SUNDAY, MARCH 5, 2017

DISCUSSION GUIDE

Have you ever gone out for lunch with someone, fully expecting to pay for your own food—and maybe theirs too, but when the check comes, they slam down their card, smile at the waitress, and exclaim, “I’ve got it!”

Then it turns into this whole awkward thing . . .

“You didn’t have to do that!”

“But I wanted to.”

“But . . . !”

At this point the poor waitress just wants to escape, so you give in, all the while feeling guilty because they paid the last two times you went out. Not to mention you just had to apologize for the horrible thing you said last week. “You didn’t have to do that,” you say again. “Thank you.”

It’s kind of like our battle with legalism—the idea that what we do (or don’t do) earns and makes us worthy of our salvation. We beat ourselves up when we miss the mark, but God has already picked up the check.

So stop arguing with Him—accept His gift and move forward with the knowledge that no, He didn’t have to send His son to die on the cross for you, but He did because He loves you. No, you didn’t deserve it. But that’s okay. He did it anyway. And it’s already done. Stop arguing and just thank Him for paying.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Looking back at your notes from Sunday’s message, was there anything that particularly caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?
2. Do you have a hard time accepting help or gifts from others? Why do you think that is?
3. Read Matthew 23:13–28. Why is Jesus rebuking the Pharisees?
4. What are some of the things we try to do to gain righteousness? Why don’t they work?
5. Read Romans 3:21–24. What do we actually need to do to gain righteousness?
6. Think about your own life. Based on how you’re living and not just on what you believe, where are you looking for righteousness?

CHALLENGE

Start each day this week by thanking God for His righteousness, and then pay attention to your thoughts throughout the day. When you find yourself feeling judgment toward someone else, replace it with grace.

