

In our 1st Reading Habakkuk is speaking plainly and directly to God. He isn't beating around the bush. He is giving it to God straight as an arrow. He's telling God off. His words could easily be our daily prayer: "How long, O Lord? I cry for help but you do not listen! I cry out to you, 'Violence!' but you do not intervene. Why do you let me see ruin; why must I look at misery? Destruction and violence are before me; there is strife, and clamorous discord."

As a way to pray we hear honesty, raw feelings, and an open heart. Like us at times, Habakkuk has had it with God, with life, and with the circumstances around him. He doesn't like his lot. He's fed up with suffering, set-backs and an awful life. In speaking to God, Habakkuk doesn't make his words poetic, pretty, or even nice. He shows God the pain, hurt and agony that overwhelm him. And he wants God's help. He wants God to intervene. He wants God to do something. Habakkuk isn't afraid to let God know.

The prophet Habakkuk gives us an example of how we can pray to God. He shows us how we can shout to God in desperation, pain, and great grief. We can give God both barrels. We need not be afraid to pray to God in whatever way we are experiencing a particular moment.

The GOOD NEWS for us today is that God loves us. God accepts us. God gave us the capacity to feel the feelings we do. God wants relationship with us. God will not hide from us when we share our minds, hearts, and souls. God hears our cries.

My sisters and brothers: Ours is a God who created us. Ours is a God who is with us. Ours is a God with whom we can share anything and everything. Are we, like Habbakuk, willing to put our trust in God?