



## *Lesson 1 Recap: Sunday, March 15, 2026 | “The Just shall live by FAITH”*

### **Lesson Recap | Habakkuk: The Just Shall Live by Faith – Mama D M. Dye**

In this week’s lesson, **Mama D** opened the door to the little book of **Habakkuk**, showing us that even in distressing times, God is still in control. She reminded us that **without faith it is impossible to please God**, and that as believers we must learn to **walk by faith and not by sight**. Building on Katrina’s teaching about transformation and Tiffany’s teaching about suiting up in the right things, Mama D grounded us in the truth that God does not call us to temporary behavior modification, but to lasting transformation through the renewing of our minds. Through historical background, biblical connections, and present-day application, she showed us that what happened in Bible times is still happening now — people drift, societies change, evil rises, but God remains sovereign. The charge was clear: stay vertically connected to God, trust His hand in history and in your life, and remember that **the just shall live by faith**.

---

### **“Habakkuk: The Just Shall Live by Faith” – Mama D**

Mama D opened by reminding us that **without faith it is impossible to please God**, and that Scripture teaches us to **walk by faith and not by sight**. Right from the start, her tone was full of urgency and hope. She said she was excited about this “little book of Habakkuk,” because though it is only **three chapters long**, it is rich with truth for what we are living through right now.

She made it plain: no matter what we may be going through **personally, in our state, or in the nation**, God is still in control. Everything is still according to His plan. But the challenge for us is whether we have enough faith to believe that **God knows what He is doing**.

Mama D reminded us that because we are saved, we are:

*justified • sanctified • set apart for the Master’s use.*

And because of that, we are called to live by faith in the One who created all things, the One who told us to trust Him with all our hearts and not lean on our own understanding.

---

### **Transformation, Not Modification**

Before fully entering Habakkuk, Mama D reached back to the recent lessons and tied everything together beautifully.

She referenced **Katrina’s teaching on behavior modification vs. behavior transformation** and **Tiffany’s teaching** on suiting up in the right things so we can know who we are in Christ. Then Mama D anchored us in one of her life scriptures:

 **Romans 12:1–2**



## *Lesson 1 Recap: Sunday, March 15, 2026 | ““The Just shall live by FAITH”*

She emphasized that true change starts with the **renewing of the mind**. All behavior begins there. You think before you act. So, if the mind is transformed, behavior follows.

To make it vivid, she used the example of a **caterpillar and a butterfly**.

A caterpillar goes into the cocoon one way, but comes out entirely transformed:

- a caterpillar crawls
- a butterfly flies
- a caterpillar has one structure
- a butterfly comes out with something entirely new

And Mama D said something powerful:

**Modification is conditional. Transformation is permanent.**

Modification says:

*“God, I’ll serve You on my terms.”*

Transformation says:

*“God, I surrender all.”*

That was one of the central truths of the lesson: **God demands transformation, not just modification.**

---

### **Habakkuk’s World Was Not So Different From Ours**

Mama D explained that the book of Habakkuk is so relevant because it shows us what happens when people drift far from God. She said the children of Israel often did what many of us still do:

- cry out to God in trouble.
- promise to serve Him.
- receive His help.
- then go right back to old ways.
- 

That is **modification**, not transformation.

She asked us to think about how often people say:

- “God, if You heal me, I’ll serve You.”
- “God, if You get me out of this mess, I’ll serve You.”
- “God, if You give me this job, I’ll serve You.”

But then, once the blessing comes, it’s business as usual.



## *Lesson 1 Recap: Sunday, March 15, 2026 | ““The Just shall live by FAITH”*

Mama D said that was exactly what was happening with God’s people in the Old Testament. They had gone so far from Him that chastisement was coming. They were worshiping idols, copying the nations around them, and refusing to live set apart as God had commanded.

Still, she reminded us that there was always **a remnant** — there were always some who still loved God. And she gave us a practical reminder: when hard times come, believers still have to live in the same economy, under the same rising prices, with the same visible hardships as everyone else. There is no separate gas pump for believers. But what we do have is something the world does not have:  
*hope • faith • an anchor • safety in His arms.*

---

### **There Is No New Thing Under the Sun**

Mama D wove together **Ecclesiastes, Genesis, and 2 Timothy** to show us that the human condition has not changed.

She quoted the principle:

**There is no new thing under the sun.**

Technology changes. Tools change. Culture changes. But the **heart of man** remains the same unless God transforms it.

She pointed us to:

- **Genesis 6** — the wickedness of humanity before the flood
- **2 Timothy 3:1–5** — Paul’s description of the last days
- **AD 2026** — our current moment

Then Tutu read the scripture from **2 Timothy 3**, describing people as:

- lovers of self
- lovers of money
- proud
- ungrateful
- unloving
- unforgiving
- reckless
- lovers of pleasure more than lovers of God
- having a form of godliness but denying its power
- 

And Mama D paused and said, in essence: **doesn’t that sound just like today?**



## *Lesson 1 Recap: Sunday, March 15, 2026 | ““The Just shall live by FAITH”*

Her point was clear: what happened in **BC 2400**, what was written in **AD 65**, is still visible in **AD 2026**. Situations repeat. Empires rise and fall. Moral climates warm and cool. There is revival and there is backsliding. But God remains the same.

---

### **The Historical Background: Why Habakkuk Matters**

Mama D then gave a rich historical background to set the stage for Habakkuk.

She explained that Habakkuk was a prophet to **Judah**, the southern kingdom, during the end of **King Josiah’s reign** and the beginning of **Jehoiakim’s rule**. Not much is known about Habakkuk personally, but Mama D described him as a man of **vigorous faith**, deeply rooted in the traditions of Israel.

She also walked us through the spiritual decline of Judah by tracing the kings:

- **Hezekiah** – a good king who initiated reform.
- **Manasseh** – one of the most evil kings, who undid his father’s reforms.
- **Amon** – continued in evil
- **Josiah** – a good king who tried to restore true worship.

Mama D spent significant time on **Manasseh**, noting that his very name means one who causes him to forget. And that is exactly what he did — he caused the people to forget God. For **55 years**, he led Judah into idolatry, evil, sorcery, false worship, and rebellion.

Tutu read from **2 Kings 21**, where we heard just how deeply corrupt the nation had become under Manasseh’s rule.

Mama D’s response was simple and sobering:

**“Sounds like today, doesn’t it?”**

---

### **Forgotten Word, Forgotten Worship**

One of the most striking moments in the lesson came when Mama D described what happened in Josiah’s day. The **Book of the Law** had been forgotten.

The temple had to be repaired, and during the repairs, the priest **Hilkiah** found the Book of the Law. Mama D paused over that and asked us to imagine it: the people had strayed so far from God that they had forgotten His Word altogether.

When King Josiah heard the Word read, he **tore his clothes** in sorrow, realizing how far the people had drifted and how great God’s anger was against their disobedience.



## *Lesson 1 Recap: Sunday, March 15, 2026 | ““The Just shall live by FAITH”*

Josiah tried to restore true worship. He gathered the people, had the law read, and brought reform. But Mama D pointed out something sobering from **2 Kings 23:25–27**:

Even though Josiah was a righteous king, the damage had gone so far and lasted so long that judgment was still coming.

She said it plainly:

**“It was too little, too late.”**

That was the environment into which Habakkuk was called to prophesy.

---

### **The Divided Kingdom and God’s Hand in History**

Mama D also explained how the kingdom split after Solomon. After **Saul, David, and Solomon**, the nation divided:

- **10 tribes** became the northern kingdom, Israel.
- **2 tribes** (Judah and Benjamin) became the southern kingdom.
- 

She traced this split back to **Solomon’s disobedience**, when his heart turned from God because of his many wives and his participation in idolatry. Tutu read from **1 Kings 11**, showing how God told Solomon the kingdom would be torn away because he had not kept covenant.

Mama D highlighted that:

- the **northern kingdom** had all evil kings.
- the **southern kingdom** had a mixture of good and evil kings.

And yet, God preserved the southern kingdom because that was the line through which **Christ would come**. She said something beautiful:

**God doesn’t change history because it is His story.**

That line held the whole lesson together. History is not random. God’s hand is in it all.

---

### **Then and Now: The Convenience of Worship**

Mama D made a powerful modern connection when she talked about **Jeroboam**, who made worship more convenient for the people. Instead of going to Jerusalem, he set up alternate places of worship and told them they could just stay where they were.

Then she connected that to the **COVID shutdown**.



## *Lesson 1 Recap: Sunday, March 15, 2026 | ““The Just shall live by FAITH”*

She reflected on how, during that season, many people became comfortable worshipping at home and never returned to gathered worship. She was careful not to condemn anyone, but she did point out how easy it is for convenience to become compromised.

She shared personally that even during lockdown, every Sunday she still got dressed, put on her clothes, shoes, jewelry, and perfume, because she was going to worship God even from home. She wanted to present herself before Him with reverence.

Again, her point was not guilt — it was awareness.

What happened then is still happening now.

---

### **Habakkuk’s Question and Our Hope**

As Mama D began moving us toward the heart of the book, she said that Habakkuk is essentially a **dialogue between the prophet and God**. Habakkuk had questions for God, and Mama D reminded us that it is okay to have questions.

Habakkuk’s big question was:

**“God, why do You permit evil when You are so holy?”**

That question is still relevant today.

And Mama D told us that in the middle of distress, confusion, and frustration, what matters most is that we maintain our **vertical relationship with God**.

That was one of the strongest takeaways of the lesson:

**You handle horizontal issues based on the strength of your vertical relationship.**

When life gets confusing, remember:

- we walk by faith, not by sight.
- visible things are temporary.
- unseen things are eternal.
- God is still working.

She kept bringing us back to the key verse of the book:

 **Habakkuk 2:4**

**“The just shall live by faith.”**

And she showed us how that same truth echoes in:



## *Lesson 1 Recap: Sunday, March 15, 2026 | “The Just shall live by FAITH”*

- **Romans 1:17**
- **Galatians 3:11**
- **Hebrews 10:38**

No matter what is happening in our lives or in the nation, the just still live by faith.

---

### **Mama D’s Core Charge**

Mama D closed by grounding us in hope.

She reminded us that this year, **2026**, symbolizes **confident expectation** — hope. Things may not feel good. They may look distressing. But because of God’s promises, we know they will work together for good.

She quoted and personalized **Romans 8:28**:

“**And we know...**”

Not we guess.

Not we hope maybe.

But **we know** that all things work together for good.

The good, the bad, the ugly — all of it.

For those who love God and are called according to His purpose.

And Mama D left us with this strong foundation as she handed it back to Roxy:

Maintain your vertical connection with God.

Walk by faith, not by sight.

Trust that even in distress, **it is well**.

And know that God is still working all things together for your good and for His glory.

---

### **Closing Lesson Summary**

Mama D’s lesson reminded us that the book of Habakkuk is not just ancient history — it is a mirror for our times. People still drift, societies still rebel, evil still rises, and many still settle for convenience, compromise, and temporary modification instead of true transformation. But through it all, God remains sovereign, holy, and fully in control of history and of our individual lives. The answer to distress is not panic but perspective — a vertical relationship with God that strengthens us to handle horizontal challenges. As we move into this study of Habakkuk, the call is clear: renew your mind, trust God’s promises, and remember that no matter what you see, **the just shall live by faith**.