

Series: Haggai

Title: Putting SELF ahead of the LORD

Text: Haggai 1

Pressures, Demands, Expectations, & Tasks push in on us from all sides, and assault our Schedules, rob us of peace.

Do This Now! Be there Now! Call Them Now!

It can seem like everybody WANTS something from us.

We do Our best to accommodate the people in our lives. Family, Employer, School, Church, Clubs,. Soon there is little left to give: We run out of Energy & Time. Everyday seems like an endless cycle: Wash, Rinse, Repeat.

None of intended to RUSH through life by attending to the Necessary, Immediate, and the Urgent.

The Problem is not the Volume of Demands or Lack of Time Management Skills.

1st Problem: We sacrifice the Important on the Altar of the Immediate, Because our Values are not Driving Our Choices.

2nd Problem: Over Time, Our Values get skewed by the Pressures of Life if they are not established on God's Word & what He Values.

Because our God's Values are not Driving Our Choices, The the Important things in Life are left undone/Fruitless.

25 Centuries ago, a VOICE was calling God's people to Right Values & Priorities. His Name was Haggai:

He knew what had to be done, so He challenges God's People to Re-evaluate their Values & Priorities.

I. A Message of Correction: (Vs 1-6)

A. The Circumstances of the Message: (Vs 1)

586 BC: Babylon Sacks Jerusalem & Destroys the Temple:

The Symbol of God's Presence with Israel.

539 BC: Cyrus 1, Emperor of Persia overthrows Babylon.

538 BC: Cyrus 1 Decrees all Jews may go home to rebuild the temple: (Ezra 1:1-8) fulfilling (Is 44:28).

537 BC: The Exiles return to Israel-restart the daily sacrifices.

536 BC: The work on the Temple Begins.

530 BC: The Work Ceases.

Opposition distracts them from there purpose: (Ezra 4:4-5)

They lose sight of their Priorities, & Apathy sets in.

The work on the Temple Ceases.

520 BC: God sends his messenger to call the His People back to His Priorities.

**1. The Recipients of the Message: (Vs 1b) unto
A Sermon for 2 Anyone?**

Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, governor of Judah, and to Joshua the son of Josedech, the high priest, saying,

These were the 2 leaders of the nation.

Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, governor of Judah:

Civil Governmental Leader-Incharge of Temple rebuild

He is a descendant of King David.

Re-established the Throne of David:

Joshua the son of Josedech, the high priest:

The Religious Leader.

Re-established High Priesthood of Aaron.

It should be no surprise as to Who God addressed His Message too.. If He can get his man right, he can do anything!

Waiting on Man to get into Condition/Position: Gen 2:4-5
God wants His Man in place before God will act.

The Bible tells us that at the beginning of creation, God had not caused it to rain upon the earth because *He did not have a man to till the ground!*

This does not mean that the earth was without water. Up to this time, God had caused a mist to come up from the earth to give moisture to the earth.

There had been no downpour from heaven,

There are some things that God has Desires to do, Planned to do, made provision to Do, but He will not do until His Man is in the place to receive what God intends to give.

B. The Content of the Message: (Vs 2-6)

Vs 2: Haggai quotes a popular expression at the time.
“The time is not come, the time that the LORD's house should be built.”

Times were tough: That is true:
Economy was bad.
Foreign policy was a joke.

The People are more concerned about their own needs rather than doing God's will.

It is easy to get distracted.

Life still comes at you fast, things change, problems arise, the devil never stops attacking.

Illus: Mission Creep. We get off focus on what our Mission here is.

God's Displeasure is seen in His reference to them as...
“This People” instead of *“His People”*.

The Temple was left Half-Done.

Does this ever happen to you? You start off with the best intension, and then Mission Creep!

Illus: One of the Great Mysteries in life: Where does the contractor go when the job is half done?

They stop showing up to work!

Having been in charge of our Home Improvement projects, I now have the answer to this question.

Things that seem Urgent come up, & we have to stop what we are doing & put out a Fire!

Things we could have planned for, should have planned for, and some we could no way under heaven planned for.

Are the Priorities of God Half-Done in your life?

They just don't have the Urgency of other things, WHY?

They don't have the same level of Enjoyment in them.

Illus: My Preacher said: “We All Do What We Want To Do!
Many times our Want to doesn't line up with God's should do.

The Priorities of God are left Half-Done in our lives, because we have to fight some FIRE that came up.

We are reaping the results of unfaithfulness to God's Word or poor decision making in crossing God's Word.

(Road Sign Picture here if you have time)

We left God's priorities undone, then we make decisions motivated by our fleshly desires, until things finally crash and we have to re-evaluate things.

(Vs 5) God calls to us to Re-Evaluate our Priorities

(Vs 6,9-11) God withholds His blessings to turn our hearts (Heb 12)

II. A Message of Consideration: (Vs 7)

A. The Challenge of the Message:

God calls His people to Re-evaluate their ways.
Thus re-evaluating their Priorities & Values they are based on.
What are you doing?
Why Are you Doing it?
For WHO's Benefit are you doing it?

III. A Message of Commission: (Vs 8-11)

A. The Commission of the Message: (Vs 8-11)

Imagine Haggai walking the Streets of the old city, challenging the people to return to the Work of God.

(Vs 8) Obedience will require Effort.
Rebellion Does Not!

There are some things that God has in the heavenlies that will not be released to you until you are in the proper Condition/ Position Spiritually, Relationally, and Emotionally.

God's Message through Haggai became the Catalyst for finishing the Work.

IV. A Message of Commendation: (Vs 12-15)

A. The Compliance of the Message: (Vs 12-15)

(Vs 12) When the Leadership Obeys, the Follows are lead to Obedience to Righteousness.

(Vs 13-15) Obedience Always Precedes Blessings:
"I am with you!" - God's Promises His Presence

The blessing are there, In God's safe keeping!

Our needs are there in our lives:

Insistent & persistent in their pain & suffering.

But the blessing won't be applied to the need until man's heart is in a Condition for God to act according to His own laws of redemption, healing, and deliverance.

There are some things that God has in the heavenlies that will not be released to you until you are in the proper Condition Spiritually, Relationally, and Emotionally.

Oh you may be experiencing the "MIST", but in your spirit, you have restlessness that there must be something more.

You have an inner knowing that you aren't fully where you ought to be.

You have uneasiness, a frustration that causes you to say,
“Why am I no further than this in my life, or no further in this area of my life?”

Rather than blaming your wife, your parents, your boss, your social standing, we would be wise to ask ourselves,
“Is God waiting on me to be in a different spiritual Position or Condition before He pours out a blessing on my life?”

When you are in alignment with God and His purposes, He will open up the Heavens and cause it to RAIN on you!

You’ll experience such an outpouring of God’s blessings that you won’t know how to contain them

What Position are you in? Husband, Father, Leader?
What is the Condition of your heart toward God?

What is the Condition of Your Heart

Salvation: *What position are you in?*

Unsure? Do you doubt? What are you trusting in?

Illus: If my 7 year old asked you, “How do I know I’m going to heaven?” What would you say? ***What ever just popped into your head is what you are trusting in!***

Recognize, Repent, Respond - ***“Oh God Bring the RAIN!”***

Separation: *What Position are you in?*

Foundational 5: Read, Pray, Church, Tithe, Witnessing

God is waiting for us to get into Position/Condition before He Moves!

Illus: *Thrown Illustration, A man in “His” position.*
We want the blessings, but are we willing to get into Condition/Position! - “Oh God Bring the RAIN!”

Service: *What Condition/Position are you in?*

Going? Serving others?

“Oh God Bring the RAIN!”

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