

Sunday, February 27, 2022 - "Ancient Prophets - Week 7 - Haggai: First Things First" - Doug Kempton

Key Passages: Haggai 1:1-11, Matthew 6:33, Haggai 2:3-5, 19

- Feel free to read the passage(s) out loud as a group
- Allow the group to share freely about what stood out to them from the passage or from Sunday's message

#### Main Ideas

- Haggai: 2nd shortest book in Old Testament
  - After the return from exile, 70 years post exile
  - People of Israel get to live in freedom, rebuild their homes and temple
  - Because of conflict with Samaritans, they abandon the temple project
- 2 traits in successful people (true of the world and of walking with Jesus)
  - Clear understanding of their priorities
  - Willing to do hard and difficult things (discipline)
- v5-7: Consider your ways (pay attention to your life, examine your life)
  - What are you doing and why are you doing it? Who and what do you love?
  - We should ask ourselves these questions often
  - If we don't do this we will "drift"
- Haggai 1:4 - God asks a questions
  - Nothing wrong with nice stuff
  - But where are your priorities?
- The temple was MORE than just a building
  - It was God's presence
  - People becoming a part of something greater than themselves
- The call to build the temple was a call to RETURN to GOD
  - Means to an end
  - It was really about their hearts, not about their building or what they did or didn't do (it's the same for us)
- v6
  - We toil and our own strength leaves us tired (running a hamster wheel)
  - Matthew 6:33 - FIRST the kingdom
  - We all want the blessings of God..but the only way is to keep "first things first"
  - There is always a blessing when we accept and lean into God's invitation (we say no to invitation but still want blessing)
- God's people say yes to God's invitation → they build the temple → And God says he is with them
- Be strong, for I am with you
  - God's presence changes everything
  - We have all we need
- Only God can make something holy
  - Not the temple or going to church
  - Not reading the Bible
  - No priest, rabbi or guru can do it
- Haggai 2:19
- Routine in life can cause us to drift and lose priorities (presence of God)

Questions (Feel free to use all of these, some of these, or none of these)

1. What are your priorities? How do you order your life and people and responsibilities in it?
2. What does it mean for you personally to "consider your ways"?
3. How have you drifted from following God the way you want to in the past?
4. How have you experienced the blessing of God upon saying yes to His invitation?
5. How do you need to change your routine in order to keep God and his will first and foremost?
6. What is God inviting you into as a result of this passage or sermon?

**\*\*15 Minutes with God Reading Plan-**

**Mon: James 4 Tues: James 5 Wed: Psalm 51:1-17 Thurs: Isaiah 58:1-12 Fri: 2 Corinthians 5:20-6:10**

**Songs from the weekend: [Graves Into Gardens - *Elevation Worship*] - [Everlasting God - William Murphy] - [Raise a Hallelujah - Bethel Music] - [Jesus At The Center - *Israel Houghton*]**