

Haggai: A Greater Way

Week 4 (March 22) - The Greater Way is Blessed – Work to God’s Glory and He Promises Blessings – God’s people find hope in God’s Glory to persevere

Haggai 2:10-19

- We are honored to be included in your work and help us to work to bring you glory. How we serve and work for God must come from a redeemed heart to serve and honor God with joy. How we work affects the quality of our work. Working as worship is blessed by God.
- Jesus: Jesus showed us what whole life worship and love looked like. We are blessed by Him and with Him!

Call to Worship (Stand for Reading)

Read

18 Consider from this day onward, from the twenty-fourth day of the ninth month. Since the day that the foundation of the Lord's temple was laid, consider: **19** Is the seed yet in the barn? Indeed, the vine, the fig tree, the pomegranate, and the olive tree have yielded nothing. But from this day on I will bless you.”

Prayer

Petition

God, we often think we can hide our inner person, and you would not see us. We often think we can do Godly things with an unrepentant heart, and you will accept it. Forgive us! Cause us to value and strive to do Godly things with right hearts, minds, emotions, and actions. Cause us to love you deeply and obey you fully.

Gratitude

Father, thank you for your mercy and correction. You love us and have put your love in our hearts. Cause us to love you in response to the love you have given us. We are grateful to be your people and for you to be our God. Thank you for helping us to live in Your Greater Way!

Sermon

Series Graphic (SLIDE 1)

Opening Idea

Take a moment and remember the historical narrative of Jonah. God spoke to Jonah and commissioned him to go to Ninevah to preach repentance. Jonah goes but does not go where God sent him. Jonah confesses God but does not submit to Him. Jonah preaches the message but sits and waits for God to destroy the city. There are repeated moments of partial obedience, along

with disobedience. God does not settle for Jonah's partial obedience. God corrects Jonah and we see that partial obedience is still disobedience.

Our study of Haggai and God correcting the people's disobedience, we see God correcting partial obedience as well as disobedience. God demands full obedience from hearts, soul, minds, and actions that show full love and devotion.

Let's continue reading and study Haggai to know God more and to be His people who live the Greater Way!

Haggai 2:10-19 ESV

(SLIDE 2) **10** On the twenty-fourth day of the ninth month, in the second year of Darius, the word of the Lord came by Haggai the prophet, **11** "Thus says the Lord of hosts: Ask the priests about the law: **12** 'If someone carries holy meat in the fold of his garment and touches with his fold bread or stew or wine or oil or any kind of food, does it become holy?'" The priests answered and said, "No."

(SLIDE 3) **13** Then Haggai said, "If someone who is unclean by contact with a dead body touches any of these, does it become unclean?" The priests answered and said, "It does become unclean." **14** Then Haggai answered and said, "So is it with this people, and with this nation before me, declares the Lord, and so with every work of their hands. And what they offer there is unclean. **15** Now then, consider from this day onward. Before stone was placed upon stone in the temple of the Lord,

(SLIDE 4) **16** how did you fare? When one came to a heap of twenty measures, there were but ten. When one came to the wine vat to draw fifty measures, there were but twenty. **17** I struck you and all the products of your toil with blight and with mildew and with hail, yet you did not turn to me, declares the Lord.

(SLIDE 5) **18** Consider from this day onward, from the twenty-fourth day of the ninth month. Since the day that the foundation of the Lord's temple was laid, consider: **19** Is the seed yet in the barn? Indeed, the vine, the fig tree, the pomegranate, and the olive tree have yielded nothing. But from this day on I will bless you."

Series Graphic (SLIDE 6)

Notes on Haggai 2:10-19

God Asks Another Question (v. 10-13)

God will ask a question through Haggai to the priests for the people. Again, this isn't just a simple question, but the question reveals that there continues to be an issue in the obedience of

the people. They are working to build the Lord's house, but something isn't good. God will ask two questions from different points of view. The questions are asked and answered in a semi-private circumstance, but the questions and the answers will become public and used to continue guiding the people.

Purity Question (v. 10-12)

God again addresses His people in asking a question through Haggai. This time, the question is meant to continue guiding the people as they build the Lord's house. They are at work and building, but there still is an issue. God directs Haggai to ask the priests to give a ruling on a purity regulations. God increases the people with whom He is honoring by including the priests and not only High Priest, Joshua. God asks how is holiness gotten. God gives an example of something sacred touching other things and asking does the sacredness and holiness transfer to the common things touched. The priests answer no!

Defilement Question (v. 13)

God asks the second question, in this section, through Haggai to the priests. The second question is focused on the impact of an unclean or defiled person. The question asked to the priests is about a person who is defiled because they have touched a dead thing (corpse). If that defiled person touches the same things listed above (food, oil, or drink), do those things become defiled? Does defilement transfer? The priests answer yes!

The transference of holiness and defilement is addressed in other areas of the Old Testament. In this particular scenario, holiness isn't transferable and defilement is. God is setting the stage for revealing the issue in the camp that is affecting the building of the Lord's House. Working isn't enough, but there is a condition in working that must be addressed.

The Answer – The Heart of the Work (v. 14)

God directs Haggai to respond to the answers the priests gave. God speaks to correct the people again. They are working in such a way that has defiled. Their offering in obedience is not good and is rejected. God corrects! This echoes into the life of Christ when He preaches on the mount. In that sermon, Jesus reveals that keeping the law is good, but the condition of a person's heart affects them. Hate defiles a person like murder does. Lust defiles a person like adultery does. The heart of a person affects the quality of their work. Doing righteous things with a corrupt heart is sinful. The heart must be right for righteous acts to be worthy. In this situation, building God's house with a corrupt heart will not make the worker good. The worker must work with a purified and cleansed heart for the work to be considered righteous and acceptable to God.

Your Way Was Fruitless – God is Disciplining (v. 15-17)

God, speaking through Haggai to the people, reminds the people of the fruitless and frustrated way of doing things their own way. God has corrected again, but the people haven't seen the

work God has done to make them aware of their sinfulness. Sin easily blinds and makes God's people ignorant of His will and work. God reminds them that He "struck" them, and they didn't respond in repentance until He revealed it to them. Working to build the Lord's house in the same way will yield the same diminished results. God wants them to hear His words and repent.

Fruitfulness From Now On – God will Bless (v. 18-19)

God has been faithful to correct His people and produce obedience in them. He continues that good work. They are to not assume that putting their hands to work on God's house will cover or justify a resentful heart. They must worship God through their work. This worship is only good if they worship God with all they are and do so fully committed to Him. The evidence of the correction is that their crops haven't yielded produce yet. God then tells them, with purified hearts that are fully committed and obedient to God, He will bless their work. Their produce and work will yield an outcome that will abundantly meet their needs. Their work to build God's house will be effective and it will bring God glory and bring honor to His people. God promises to bless!

God Requires Full-Hearted Obedience (SLIDE 7)

Godly Work Done Half-Heartedly is Wrong (Disobedience) (SLIDE 8)

Self-Righteous

Spiritually Ignorant

Works Based Righteousness

Godly Work from Right Standing is Righteous (Right Action) (SLIDE 9)

Whole-Hearted Love

Spiritually Empowered

Repentance with Forgiveness

Work as an Aspect of Worship

- **God Working in Worship**
 - **Empowering**
 - **Equipping**
 - **Blessings**

We Will Obey God being Truly Repentant and in Devoted Worship (SLIDE 10)

All of our Heart

All of our Soul

All of our Mind

All of our Strength

- **Deuteronomy 6 and Matthew 22**

Jesus Demonstrated Whole Life Worship

Taking on Flesh

Taking on Men's Sins

Enduring all of God's Wrath

Defeating Death in Resurrection

Ascending to His Throne

- **We Must Fully Love God and Be Fully Devoted to Him to Live in His Greater Way.**
(SLIDE 11)

Series Graphic (SLIDE 12)