



The Oaks
Baptist Church
Grand Prairie, Texas

Lesson Leader:

James Haymon

Class Leaders:

Joe & Comella Liles

Getting our
Priorities Straight
A Study of Haggai

Date	Lesson	Text
01/03	Introduction	
01/10	Conviction	1:1-15
01/17	Courage	2:1-9
01/24	Cleanliness	2:10-19
01/31	Consumation	2:20-23
02/07	Summary & Review	

Food for Thought

Courage: Live It

Courage will follow when
faith takes the lead.

Lord, give me the courage to rise
above fear, Even of danger, because
You are near; I would be faithful to
face any foe While I am walking
with You here below.

*For God has not given us a spirit of
fear, but of power and of love and of
a sound mind.*

2 Timothy 1:7 (NJKV)

(From "Our Daily Bread" Feb 19, 2008)

The Tabernacle Experience
March 18th through 28th
Presented by Inglewood Baptist Church

*One step inside the Courtyard takes you back into
Old Testament times and brings you face to face
with a life-size replica of the Tabernacle of Moses.*

For more info : <http://www.ibctabx.com>

COURAGE

Haggai 2:1-9

After they got their priorities straight and resumed the work of God, Haggai continued to preach to them. **It wasn't enough that they got back to work. He wanted to make sure that they were doing the work with the right motives.** Motivation is everything. In 1Co 3:12 we see that the believer's works will be evaluated. I'm convinced that it is our motivation that will determine if our works are classified as wood, hay and stubble or gold, silver and precious stones.

Haggai starts off by comparing the temple with the temple that Solomon built. Why do you think he did this? Would that be motivating? Solomon's temple was an awesome sight. Perhaps God doesn't want them to be motivated by wrong reasons such as pride. If they were out to set a Guinness book of world records temple, that would be motivational in itself. But they would have been building the temple for themselves and their own glory and not for God. But this was not an option because they did not have those kinds of resources. This was a group of people who had just returned from exile and they had very little wealth. Especially since we know that God had been causing a drought and probably other disciplinary actions. So he asks how many of them remembered the former temple. It's been 70 years so only those over 80 probably remembered. There were probably a few that remembered, and what would they have said? "This temple ain't nothing like Solomon's temple." That wouldn't have been very encouraging, so Haggai says in vs 4, "Take courage...all you people of the land." **Principle: Comparison is wrong.** We need to just do our best with the talents and resources we have and not compare ourselves or our fruit to others.

The first reason the people should have courage is **the promise of God's presence** (Haggai 2:1-5, "... for I am with you" - vs. 4). This phrase goes back to Exodus 19:4-6; 29:45; 33:12f, and Isa 63:11-14. In those passages you have God promising Moses that He would be with the Israelites. The Isaiah passage says it was the Spirit of God in their midst that protected and provided for them. What is the secret to doing the work of God? It is the presence of God. **Principle Courage comes from knowing that God is present** (2:1-4) cf. Heb 13:5-6

The second reason that they were to have courage was because **God promises that He will bring peace.** Would this be a comforting and encouraging message to Israel? Ask any Jew today. If they could rebuild the temple and have peace in the land, would they be happy? The promise of God's presence and peace are given as encouragement to the people. **Principle: The remedy for a discouraged heart is to see the divine perspective** (2:6-7). The promise of His presence and His peace brings courage. Prophecy is not just gee whiz information. It is supposed to establish my heart. It should purify my life. It shows me over and over again that **God is in control.** It doesn't just tell me the future, but in light of the future it tells me how to live today and that I can **have hope.**

(Adapted from "Haggai" by Hampton Keathley)

NOTES AND CROSS-REFERENCES

Comparison of our first love and zeal (3)

(Rev 2:4-6) 4 'But I have this against you, that you have left your first love. 5 'Therefore remember from where you have fallen, and repent and do the deeds you did at first; or else I am coming to you and will remove your lampstand out of its place — unless you repent.

(Rom 12:11) 11 not lagging behind in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord;

Take courage (4)

(Josh 1:8-9) 8 "This book of the law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it; for then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have success. 9 "Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous! Do not tremble or be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go."

God is with us (4)

(John 14:23-24) 23 Jesus answered and said to him, "If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our abode with him.

(Heb 13:5-6) 5 Make sure that your character is free from the love of money, being content with what you have; for he himself has said, "I will never desert you, nor will I ever forsake you," 6 so that we confidently say, "the lord is my helper, I will not be afraid. What will man do to me?"

God's Spirit indwells us (5)

(1 Cor 3:16-17) 16 Do you not know that you are a temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you? 17 If any man destroys the temple of God, God will destroy him, for the temple of God is holy, and that is what you are.

(John 15:4-9) 4 "Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself unless it abides in the vine, so neither can you unless you abide in Me. 5 "I am the vine, you are the branches; he who abides in Me and I in him, he bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing. 6 "If anyone does not abide in Me, he is thrown away as a branch and dries up; and they gather them, and cast them into the fire and they are burned. 7 "If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. 8 "My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit, and so prove to be My disciples.

God will shake things up occasionally (6)

(Heb 12:25-29) 25 See to it that you do not refuse Him who is speaking. For if those did not escape when they refused him who warned them on earth, much less will we escape who turn away from Him who warns from heaven. 26 and his voice shook the earth then, but now he has promised, saying, "yet once more I will shake not only the earth, but also the heaven." 27 this expression, "yet once more," denotes the removing of those things which can be shaken, as of created things, so that those things which cannot be shaken may remain. 28 Therefore, since we receive a kingdom which cannot be shaken, let us show gratitude, by which we may offer to God an acceptable service with reverence and awe; 29 for our God is a consuming fire.

God wants to fill us with His glory (7)

(Eph 3:16-19) 16 that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with power through His Spirit in the inner man, 17 so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; and that you, being rooted and grounded in love, 18 may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, 19 and to know the love of Christ which surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled up to all the fullness of God.

(2 Cor 3:18) 18 But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as from the Lord, the Spirit.

Greater glory (9)

(2 Cor 3:7-11) 7 But if the ministry of death, in letters engraved on stones, came with glory, so that the sons of Israel could not look intently at the face of Moses because of the glory of his face, fading as it was, 8 how will the ministry of the Spirit fail to be even more with glory? 9 For if the ministry of condemnation has glory, much more does the ministry of righteousness abound in glory. 10 For indeed what had glory, in this case has no glory because of the glory that surpasses it. 11 For if that which fades away was with glory, much more that which remains is in glory.