



The Oaks
Baptist Church
Grand Prairie, Texas

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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

Scrubbed Clean

Search me, O God, and know my heart today; Try me, O Savior, know my thoughts I pray. See if there be some wicked way in me; Cleanse me from every sin and set me free. Confession to God brings cleansing from God.

Draw near to God and He will draw near to you Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded.

James 4:8 (NASB)

(From "Our Daily Bread" Mar 26, 2002)

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CLEANLINESS

Haggai 2:10-19

Haggai now asks the people a question which the priests are supposed to answer. If a priest is carrying something holy and he touches something unholy, like a corpse, does that make the corpse holy? The answer is no. If the person who is unclean touches the priest, does that make the priest unclean? The answer is Yes. **What is the point? Holiness does not come by contact. It is not transferable. But contact with unholiness does defile.** Take sickness as an example. If you are healthy and your spouse has the flu, and you kiss them, will that make them well? Will it make you sick? What is the only exception to this? Jesus - He touched lots of unclean people - lepers, the woman with the bleeding problem, corpses, etc. They did not make him unclean. Instead, He made them clean. He healed them. This should have been a big clue to the Jewish leaders, priests, etc. of His identity.

Haggai makes his conclusion in vs 14. The Israelites were guilty of this very thing. This is why chapter 2 follows chapter 1. The "holy" rituals that the people had been performing in the past were useless because, as we have already seen in chapter 1, there was no obedience. They did not have holy hearts. **Principle Holiness is not transferable (2:11-12) Principle Sin contaminates everything one does (2:13-14)** You might say, "But I thought they had gotten their act together and were working on the temple?" They had but the next verse shows that Haggai is looking back to the time before they had resumed the work.

When does God's discipline start? It usually doesn't strike immediately. He allowed the Israelites to skip Sabbath years for 490 years and become very corrupt before He sent them to Babylon. When does God's blessing start? Immediately when we turn to Him. He is so gracious. Where does the idea of **dependency** fit in to all this? If you are depending on material things for happiness, God will take them away (vs 17) This is the same thing we saw in 1:6 and 9 in our discussion about dissatisfaction and discipline, but if you are depending on God for happiness, He will bless you and bring all the material things you need. I think motivation is important. **Principle: Disobedience brings discipline, while obedience guarantees blessing (2:15-19)**

(Adapted from "Haggai" by Hampton Keathley)

The cause of much ill success in life is often to be found in the want of zeal for God's house. **The temple was a type of that Church of which every individual believer is a living stone. From the day when the foundation of that temple is laid, the promise of the text is ours.** When is the foundation day from which the blessing dates? In one sense it is from everlasting, for God's people are, in purpose, part of the building from before all time. But the day of conversion is the day on which is laid -- as far as our experience is concerned -- the foundation of our salvation.

A SPECIFIED DAY. This blessed day goes by different names in Scripture. A day of espousals: the day in which Jesus, our heavenly Bridegroom, wins the heart of His bride. A day of power. It is a mighty act to convert a sinner, infinitely beyond the power of man, and glorifying even to the omnipotence of God. The "day of salvation."

A DECLARED BLESSING. It includes all spiritual blessings; pardon, peace, etc. It rests on all our temporal affairs. It extends to all future things.

(Adapted from The Biblical Illustrator)

NOTES AND CROSS-REFERENCES

Check what God's Word says (11)

(2 Tim 3:16-17) 6 All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, 17 so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

(1 John 4:1-3) Dear friends, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world. 2 This is how you can recognize the Spirit of God: Every spirit that acknowledges that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, 3 but every spirit that does not acknowledge Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you have heard is coming and even now is already in the world.

Only God can make us Holy (12)

(1 Cor 1:30) 30 But by His doing you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification, and redemption,

(Eph 4:24) 24 and put on the new self, which in the likeness of God has been created in righteousness and holiness of the truth.

Does sin contaminate (13)

(1 Cor 8:12-13) 12 And so, by sinning against the brethren and wounding their conscience when it is weak, you sin against Christ. 13 Therefore, if food causes my brother to stumble, I will never eat meat again, so that I will not cause my brother to stumble.

(2 Peter 2:12-16) 12 But these, like unreasoning animals, born as creatures of instinct to be captured and killed, reviling where they have no knowledge, will in the destruction of those creatures also be destroyed, 13 suffering wrong as the wages of doing wrong. They count it a pleasure to revel in the daytime. They are stains and blemishes, reveling in their deceptions, as they carouse with you, 14 having eyes full of adultery that never cease from sin, enticing unstable souls, having a heart trained in greed, accursed children; 15 forsaking the right way, they have gone astray, having followed the way of Balaam, the son of Beor, who loved the wages of unrighteousness;

Accept God's discipline (14-18)

(Heb 12:5-11) 5 and you have forgotten the exhortation which is addressed to you as sons, "my son, do not regard lightly the discipline of the lord, Nor faint when you are reprov'd by him; 6 for those whom the lord loves he disciplines, And he scourges every son whom he receives." 7 It is for discipline that you endure; God deals with you as with sons; for what son is there whom his father does not discipline? 8 But if you are without discipline, of which all have become partakers, then you are illegitimate children and not sons. 9 Furthermore, we had earthly fathers to discipline us, and we respected them; shall we not much rather be subject to the Father of spirits, and live? 10 For they disciplined us for a short time as seemed best to them, but He disciplines us for our good, so that we may share His holiness. 11 All discipline for the moment seems not to be joyful, but sorrowful; yet to those who have been trained by it, afterwards it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness.

(2 Tim 1:7) 7 For God has not given us a spirit of timidity, but of power and love and discipline.

The mercy, grace and blessings of God (19)

(Heb 4:16) 16 Therefore let us draw near with confidence to the throne of grace, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

(Ps 118:1-4) Oh, give thanks to the Lord, for He is good! For His mercy endures forever. 2 Let Israel now say, "His mercy endures forever." 3 Let the house of Aaron now say, "His mercy endures forever." 4 Let those who fear the Lord now say, "His mercy endures forever."

(Prov 10:22) 22 It is the blessing of the Lord that makes rich, And He adds no sorrow to it.