

RCMI L-Path Teaching

March 7, 2021

English

TITLE: REALIGN YOUR PRIORITIES

TEXT: Haggai 1: 1-15

THEME: New Normal Mindset: God is with us in the disorienting, culture-shifting situations we find ourselves in.

BIG IDEA: God calls us to keep Him as our highest priority.

INTRO:

- March Theme: New Normal Mindset. This series reminds us that God is with us in the disorienting, culture shifting situations we find ourselves in.
- For our first study, let's talk about priorities, first love and realignment.
- The OT prophecy of Haggai was written well over 2000 years ago, but it contains a message that is relevant for our time. Haggai was speaking to people who were struggling to find their way in a new normal.
- The prophecy of Haggai was intended to encourage and unite the people of God and point them to the right direction as they seek to find their way forward in a new normal.

Historical Context:

The rebuilding of the temple started by the Jewish remnants upon their return to Jerusalem was stopped by warring neighbors. The rebuilding work came to a halt and at least 14 years had passed. The people got caught up in the routine of life. **They got used to life without a temple.** Even their leaders, Zerubbabel and Joshua, had gotten used to things as they were. **Then, God raised up Haggai and he called on the people to reprioritize their lives around the construction of the temple.** Prophet Haggai preached the importance of focusing on God-given priorities. The prophesy of Haggai reminds us of how easy it is for apathy to set in in this post-pandemic reality that we now have. Let's study the text and examine if our priorities are aligned with God or not.

I. THE HAZARD OF MISALIGNED PRIORITIES

A. Recognition Of Carelessness [vv.1-4]

- **Note something:** the people seem to know that the rebuilding of the temple is important, but they disagree on the timing: "The time has not yet come." They didn't say "no;" they just said "later". [v.2]
- **Application:** Is there an area in your life where God has been prompting you to grow, and you are procrastinating? You haven't actually told God "no," you just say "Later, God. This isn't a convenient time."
- **Lesson:** It's not that these things are wrong, but God is saying that if you're pursuing these things while your relationship with Him is not right, there will always be a level of emptiness or dissatisfaction in your life. It's an important warning, whose house are you building?

B. Realization Of Consequences [vv.5-11]

- Haggai explains to the people that their refusal to rebuild the temple has caused God to withhold his blessing from their lives.
- **Haggai speaks of disappointment with the harvest.** The people expected much, but received little. This scarcity was attributed to the desire of God to get the people's attention so they would restore proper priorities.

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English

- **Have you ever experienced a season in your life when the blessing of God was withdrawn because of disobedience?** When we turn from God, He is not obligated to continue to pour blessing into our lives.

II. THE HOPE OF GOD-ALIGNED PRIORITIES

A. Relevance To Current Condition

What's the relevance of Haggai 1 of 500BC to us Christians in this present day, post-pandemic, culture shifting 2021 AD?

Let me call your attention to three realities.

1. The temple is Christ's presence. Jesus Christ is the temple. [Jn 2: 19, 21-22]

Jesus is the temple, but it doesn't stop there, when Jesus gets in your life and He

2. The Believer Is A Temple. [1 Cor. 6:19-20]

So Jesus is the temple and Jesus gets in your life and you become a temple but it doesn't stop there.

When we come together as the Body of Christ, in our existence as a church we become the temple of God.

3. The Church is the Temple [Eph. 2:21-22]

4. The Father & The Lamb are The Temple In Eternity. [Rev. 21:22]

Lesson: What's the relevance of the temple? Jesus is the temple; Jesus gets in you, you're the temple; you come together as the Body of Christ, we're the temple together but we are looking for, waiting for, moving toward that time when we will experience the presence of God in Christ Jesus for all of eternity.

2. The laborers are Christ's people. There are laborers in this passage that are told to get physical tools and build a literal physical temple. It would be easy for us just to rest in the reality that we are the temple and forget that we too have been called upon to be the laborers. Paul said to the Corinthians, we are God's fellow workers, you're God's field, you're God's building.

B. Response To The Correction [vv. 12-13]

1. The people respond in obedience to correction

- When they recognized their misaligned priorities and realized God had removed His blessing from them, they responded with immediate obedience.
- Saying "yes" to God when we realize we have strayed can be a powerful thing. It can unleash God's blessing and movement in our lives.

Haggai 1:13, This is precisely how God responds when someone resolves to adopt God's priorities. He promises his presence. God says to you, "I am with you always!"

Question: Why is this an important realization? It is crucial to know that God will be with you in your priority shift, because it won't be easy. You'll need God's help. You'll need his power to make the right choices. You'll need his discernment to know the next step to take.

CHALLENGE: Keep God as our highest priority!

APPLICATION POINT: Sudden life changes offer us a chance to realign our value system to better reflect God's ways.

As we have discussed the rebuilding of the temple today, have you detected an area of your life that is in need of correction? Has the spirit of God impressed upon you an area of neglect that needs new focus?

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Application : Let me challenge you to take a corrective step within 48 hours. Within the next two days, take a tangible step toward responding to God's prompting. Begin to move... and anticipate his renewed favor and presence in your life.

Have A Blessed Week!