

Reordering Our Lives Around God's House

Key Passage: Haggai 1:2–14

Message Summary

Haggai 1:6 describes people who “have sown much, and harvested little” and who earn wages only to put them “into a bag with holes.” Their circumstances may sound familiar, but Haggai explains that there was a deeper issue behind their frustration.

God's people had returned from exile and begun rebuilding the temple, but opposition had caused the work to stop. Fifteen years later, they had invested heavily in their own homes and were busy making their own lives work, while God's house remained in ruins (Haggai 1:2–4). Their priorities had become, in effect, **“My prosperity first,” “my family first,” and “my plans first.”**

God calls them to “consider your ways” (Haggai 1:5, 7). Their problem was not simply that they were busy or that they needed to work harder. They had **reordered their lives around their own interests while treating God's purposes as secondary**. God's frustration of their efforts was intended to get their attention and bring them back on track (Haggai 1:9–11).

The solution was not simply to add another responsibility to an already overwhelming schedule. God told them to go up, bring wood, and build his house so that he might take pleasure in it and be glorified (Haggai 1:7–8). This was a call to **reorder their priorities and efforts**—to make God's kingdom and his purposes their first concern, trusting him to care for their needs (Matthew 6:32–33).

But we do not live in Old Testament times, and God's purpose is no longer centred on rebuilding a physical temple. The temple pointed forward to Jesus, who through his death and resurrection brings people into a new relationship with God and with one another. Those who belong to Christ are now being built into God's spiritual house (1 Peter 2:5; 1 Corinthians 3:16–17).

Paul describes this new temple as **God's household, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the cornerstone** (Ephesians 2:19–22). God's purpose is to display his wisdom through this unique family made possible by the gospel (Ephesians 3:10–11).

So, for us today, **building God's house means building up his people—his church—not constructing impressive buildings or simply adding more religious activity**. It means working at the faith, love, hope, and good works of Christ's family. The blueprint is the teaching entrusted to Christ's apostles, and the power that unites and holds the household together is Jesus himself, through his gospel, love, and presence by the Spirit (Ephesians 2:20–22; Ephesians 4:11–16).

We must recognize our tendency to elevate ourselves, our self-interest, and our glory above God's Glory. Haggai's message challenges us to stop allowing our own interests, plans, traditions, and comfort to take priority over God's glory. Instead, we are to **reorder our lives around understanding what Christ has taught us about his plan and working at building up his family for his glory**.

When the Israelites responded in obedience, God assured them, “I am with you” (Haggai 1:13). He stirred up the spirit of their leaders and people, and they began the work with renewed courage and energy

(Haggai 1:14). Haggai 2:4–5 reminds them that God’s presence and Spirit remain with them, so they need not fear.

The result of putting God's house first is that they are less burdened and discouraged in life; they are more hopeful and less fearful of the future. We may be good at organizing our lives around our own families, goals, and needs, but discipleship is about deliberately reordering our lives around Jesus and his plan for his church.

Discussion Questions

1. **“Consider your ways.”**

In Haggai 1:2–11, what had the people begun to prioritize, and how had that affected their lives and their relationship to God? What are some ways we can unintentionally adopt a “my plans first” approach today?

2. **What does working to build up God’s house really look like today?**

Read 1 Peter 2:5, 1 Corinthians 3:16–17, and Ephesians 2:19–22. If God’s house is now his unique family (his church), what relationships, and investments help build up the faith, love, hope, and good works of Christ’s family?

3. **How do we know how he wants us to build?**

Read Ephesians 2:19–22 and Ephesians 4:11–16. What do these passages teach us about the foundation of God’s household, the role of Christ, and the purpose of teaching and equipping? How can we make sure our ideas and practices are shaped by Christ and the teaching entrusted to his apostles, rather than simply by our own preferences or traditions?

4. **Reordering, not simply adding.**

What is the difference between adding more Christian activity to an already busy life and actually reordering our lives around God’s kingdom and his household (Haggai 1:7–8; Matthew 6:32–33)? What might that look like in your present season?

5. **“I am with you.”**

Read Haggai 1:13–14 and Haggai 2:4–5. How did God’s presence and promise affect the people’s response? How might remembering that Christ is with his people change the way we approach the work of building up his church?

Practice Together

Take a few minutes to identify one practical way you can **reorder your life around Jesus and his plan for his church**.

This could involve making room for being part of our Discipleship Pathway cohort, investing more intentionally in a Gospel Community, being part of our leadership development initiative, encouraging another believer, serving someone in need, welcoming a newcomer...