



Morningside Church

Sermon Discussion Guide

Title: Evaluating Your Priorities

Date: July 19, 2026

Scripture Text: Haggai 1

Notes:

We may find ourselves, at times, knowing what we are supposed to be doing, but then we do something else. This may be in the context of work, around the house, at church, or in our daily Christian walk. After the exile of Israel to Babylon, which started in 597 BC, world powers transitioned from Babylon to Persia. After 70 years in exile, they were allowed to return. Upon returning, their first order of business was to rebuild the temple ([Ezra 1:1-3](#)). When they returned, they started on the temple, but it was not long before they got involved in their own priorities and the rebuilding of the temple was stalled. 18 years pass, still no more work done on the temple. God calls the prophet Haggai to light a fire under the Israelites and help them redirect their priorities back to God. As we look at Haggai 1, consider if your priorities are God's priorities. If not, what do you need to change so you and God are on the same page...

I. The Evaluation of Our Priorities ([Hag. 1-11](#))

Rebuilding the temple was the priority because that is where the Israelites went to worship God. They were able to experience His presence there.

The people had placed their priorities over God's ([v. 4](#)). The people were busy living in their "luxury houses" while the temple (God's house) "lies in ruins".

- How were the people's priorities inconsistent with God's?
- What are God's priorities today?
- What are examples of our priorities being inconsistent with God's?
- How do you know when your priorities don't align with God's?
- How would you describe your priorities?

God continues in [v. 6](#) listing the people's efforts, which were futile. They were seeking success and fulfillment while pursuing priorities inconsistent with God's. God's point in [v. 8](#) was that they needed to make His priorities their priorities before they would be able to find fulfillment.

- What are things we may try to find fulfillment in?
- How can our definitions of success differ from God's definition?
- How can we be truly successful and be fulfilled?

God is not saying these things are bad. What is bad is making them priority over Him.



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God desires what is best for us. His priorities are what is best. When He withholds our success or fulfillment because of disobedience, it is in our best interest. He won't allow us to continue in sin. In [v. 10](#) God plainly states that the challenges they face, the unsuccessful outcomes they are experiencing are because of them. They cannot blame God for their circumstances.

- What are ways people experience consequences of their disobedience (sin)?
- What could happen to a person if God allowed them to keep their priorities when they are not His?

For God to direct us, His priorities must be seen as loving actions that are for our own good. God is not about making our life difficult. He wants to bless us abundantly through obedience to Him and His word.

II. Responding to the Evaluation ([Hag. 1:12-15](#))

God revealed the people's sin and they repented. They responded with obedience and fear ([v.12](#)). God showed them, through the prophet Haggai, how they had gotten off course, focusing on their own priorities while disregarding God's. Haggai continues in [v. 13](#) with the message "I am with you, says the Lord!". God equipped them to do what He called them to do. As a result, they got to work rebuilding the Temple. It was completed ~516 BC, approximately 4 years later.

- God revealed the sins of the people through the prophet Haggai in [vv. 1-11](#). How does He reveal sin to us today?
- The people had a choice, either continue in sin and live with the consequences ([vv. 6, 9-11](#)) or repent unto obedience. How do we have the same choices today when we are convicted of sin?
- The people responded with obedience and fear. What does it mean to "fear the Lord"?
- As the people repent and commit to obedience, God said He would be with them. His presence equipped them to do what He called them to do.
 - What are examples of things God calls us to do?
 - How does He equip us to do these things?
- What changes are needed to make God's priorities your top priorities?

"Rise up, O Lord, and act. Stir us up and bring us back. Kindle and draw us. In flame, grow sweet to us. Let us now love and pursue you."

Augustine of Hippo (354 AD – 430 AD)