

Sermon Notes: “Our Present, Their Gift” — Haggai 1–2

Building What Matters

Series Recap:

- Hebrews 11 shows 25 generations of people who trusted God.
 - Their present became our gift.
 - Our present will become someone else’s gift.
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Historical Context:

- Haggai written ~500 years before Jesus.
 - Purpose: call God’s people to rebuild the temple.
 - Babylon destroyed the temple; Jews exiled.
 - Persia conquers Babylon; Jews allowed to return.
 - Foundation laid, worship begins, hope rises.
 - Opposition stops building for 18 years.
 - People continue normal life while God’s house sits in ruins.
 - God sends Haggai to stir them again.
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Modern Parallel:

- Many believers attend church but delay true obedience.
 - We build houses, careers, comfort, reputation, portfolios.
 - None inherently wrong—until they replace the Kingdom.
 - Excuses justify neglect.
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Haggai 1:1–2:23 Highlights

- People say: “It’s not time to rebuild the Lord’s house.”
 - God rebukes: “You live in paneled houses while Mine lies in ruins.”
 - Consequences: sow much, harvest little; never satisfied; bags with holes.
 - God commands: “Go get wood and build My house so I may be glorified.”
 - People obey (rare moment!).
 - God responds: “I am with you.”
 - God stirs their spirits.
 - Work begins in 23 days.
 - God encourages: “Be strong and work, for I am with you.”
 - Future glory of the house will be greater than former.
 - Obedience leads to future blessing.
 - God promises to shake nations, bring resources.
 - God restores legacy through Zerubbabel.
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Main Themes & Points

1. Procrastination is Rebellion

- Delayed obedience = disobedience with better branding.
 - Feels like wisdom, but is rebellion.
 - Satan doesn't need you to worship idols—just to wait.
 - Saying “Not now, Lord” dethrones Jesus.
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2. Serving Yourself First Never Works

- When God isn't first, everything else leaks.
 - Matthew 6:33 — Seek first His Kingdom.
 - God doesn't bless what displaces Him.
 - We often toss leftovers to God.
 - Malachi rebukes lame sacrifices.
 - God wants first place because life works best that way.
 - Exodus 20:3 — no other gods.
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3. Obedience Brings a Stirring

- The stirring came *after* obedience.
- We want stirring without sacrifice.
- Many want revival but not responsibility.
- Manifest presence follows obedience (John 14:21).

Key Question:

- What has God told you to do that you haven't done?
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4. You're Stronger Than You Think

- God says three times: "Be strong... work... I am with you."
 - Kingdom building is costly:
 - long hours
 - unseen faithfulness
 - sacrifice
 - spiritual battles
 - Strength comes from God's Spirit (Romans 8).
 - Joshua 1:9 — God's presence fuels courage.
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5. God Redeems Generational Legacy

- Zerubbabel's grandfather was cut off in rebellion.
 - God now restores through the grandson.
 - Obedience reverses generational curses.
 - Your legacy can start with you.
 - You are evidence of ancient prayers.
 - God fixes family trees through the Gospel.
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6. The Gospel Fulfillment

- Haggai's prophecy ultimately pointed to Jesus.
 - Jesus is the true temple.
 - Glory greater than the former arrives in Him.
 - We are now the temple of the Spirit.
 - We build because we already have God's presence.
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Application: Build What Matters

- Build the Kingdom, not just physical structures.
 - Give your life to work that outlives you.
 - Legacy > comfort.
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Generosity Challenge

- Season of 100% participation.
- End-of-year giving goal: \$500,000.
- Fuels missions, benevolence, expansion in 2026.
- Already moving: giving away grocery gift cards.
- This is preparation, not survival.
- Ask God how to participate faithfully.