



Sermon Series: Haggai

Sermon Title: Consider Your Ways

Date: 10/25/2026

Big Idea: God lovingly confronts our misplaced priorities and calls us back to wholehearted worship!

You can work hard, pay your bills, and care for your family, and still neglect something of eternal importance. In **Haggai 1:1-11**, God sends a message that still searches us: consider your ways. The Lord loves his people too much to let them settle into a life where everything else matters more than him.

How does God work in human time?

Haggai 1:1 anchors us in history. Darius I took the throne in 521 BC, and God used the Persian king to help restore his people, speaking to them on a specific day in 520 BC. Throughout the Bible, God works through nations, time, people groups, and individuals. We're still waiting for Jesus' return, and we don't need every detail of the future because we know God's character. He is the same yesterday, today, and tomorrow, which makes it all the more important to make choices today that honor him.

Where are your priorities leading you?

In **Haggai 1:2-6**, the people said the time hadn't come to rebuild the Lord's house. Meanwhile they lived in paneled houses, a picture of luxury. They'd made room for their own comfort while God's place among them stayed unfinished. God knows the heart. Fear played a part, since **Ezra 4** describes opposition that made them afraid to build. So did want, as they struggled financially, and self-preservation, where God wasn't the priority.

God didn't need a building. The temple represented God dwelling among his covenant people, and leaving it in ruins while beautifying their own homes said comfort mattered now and worship could wait. Consider your ways, in verse 5, is the key phrase. Are your priorities leading you toward the Lord or away from him?

Can my priorities change?

Haggai 1:7-8 answers directly, repeating consider your ways, and gives a to-do list: leave the remains of the city, cut wood, and rebuild God's house. Why? God's people are designed to make him famous, to show and tell all he has done. The Bible calls that glory. Looking at your coming week, do you need to make room for a daily time with the Lord? Gather with his people? Cut trivial habits to make space for worship?

What about the consequences?

Haggai 1:9-11 shows consequences for misplaced priorities. They looked for much and received little, and God withheld the dew and called for a drought. God doesn't bless selfishness. But Haggai doesn't teach that every financial difficulty is God punishing you. Job suffered without that being true of him, and Jesus rejected the idea that every tragedy results from someone's particular sin.

Still, God sometimes uses consequences to expose what our hearts have made most important and call us to repentance. When facing difficulty, ask what God is showing you and whether your heart has wandered. These people had experienced God's faithfulness, bringing them home from exile, yet their own comfort became more urgent than worship. We can experience his faithfulness and still grow less responsive to him.

Jesus really changes everything!

Revelation 21:22 says there is no temple in the eternal city, because its temple is the Lord God and the Lamb. Because of Jesus' sacrificial death, we need no temple in Jerusalem and no sacrifices. Through faith, with the Holy Spirit within us, no earthly house is needed to contain God's glory. As **1 Corinthians 6:19** says, your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit. So how is your temple doing?

The call to consider your ways isn't an invitation to try harder. It's an invitation to surrender your life to him. If your heart needs restoring, ask the Lord and take steps to rebuild through him. And if you're ready, today you can invite Jesus to be your Savior.

God lovingly confronts our misplaced priorities and calls us back to wholehearted worship! **Colossians 3:17** calls us to do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to the Father. This week, name the one priority that has slipped, and start rebuilding it.

Discussion Questions

- 1. What does it mean that God works through real moments in history, and how does that shape the choices you make today?**
- 2. Where have fear, want, or self-preservation pushed worship down your list?**
- 3. Are your priorities leading you toward the Lord or away from him during the week? Toward others or toward yourself?**
- 4. Which would help most this week: a daily time with the Lord, gathering with his people, or cutting a trivial habit? What would you need to change?**
- 5. When facing difficulty, how can you ask what God is showing you without assuming every hardship is punishment? What does Jesus change about this?**