Sermon Series: Haggai: What's Your Focus?
Sermon Title: I Have Chosen You
Date: 11/22/2026

## God's blessing starts the day you turn to Him - even before you see the benefit.

## God's pursuit can be relentless!

God invites His people to "consider" why life has gone so badly. Before they started rebuilding the temple, their harvests came up short: twenty measures of grain became ten, and fifty measures of wine became twenty. Blight, mildew and hail hit everything they worked for, and still they did not turn to Him (Haggai 2:15-17).

None of this was random. It matched the covenant warnings God gave Israel in Deuteronomy 28. God takes responsibility for their lack and tells us His motive: He wants His people to turn to Him. Their hardship was not proof that He had stopped loving them. Hebrews 12:6 explains that the Lord's discipline flows from His love. Even while they ignored Him, God kept pursuing, because He wants the relationship, not just better behavior.

God does not discipline to crush people. He does it to bring them back. If you sense warning signs in your own life, such as a sense that nothing you do is getting traction, treat them as an invitation and turn to Him.

## God's faithfulness is known the moment you turn!

God says "consider" again, asking us to engage our minds. The seed was not yet in the barn, and the vine, fig tree, pomegranate and olive tree had produced nothing. The seed had just been planted, so all anyone could see was bare dirt. Yet God promises, "from this day on I will bless you" (Haggai 2:18-19) - before a single sprout broke the ground. The blessing began the moment the relationship was restored, because that is His nature. God wants His people looking forward, as if the harvest had already arrived.

Many of us look at our lives and see only what hasn't happened: the empty barn, the tree with no fruit, the prayer still unanswered. Don't confuse what

**you can see today with what God is doing for your future. You may not see the harvest yet, but you can trust the One who promised. His timing is not always ours, but His faithfulness never changes.**

**God's future is for every believer!**

**God's final message through Haggai goes to Zerubbabel, governor of Judah. God promises to shake the heavens and earth, overthrow kingdoms and destroy the strength of the nations (Haggai 2:20-23). Then He calls Zerubbabel His signet ring, saying, "I have chosen you." God had torn the signet ring from Zerubbabel's grandfather, King Jehoiachin, in judgment (Jeremiah 22:24). Naming Zerubbabel His signet ring reverses that curse and puts David's royal line back on track.**

**Yet Zerubbabel stayed a Persian governor and never became king. A signet ring carries a king's authority, sealing letters, orders and treaties. The promise looks past him to his descendant, Jesus, the true King who will shake the nations and never be overthrown. "On that day" most likely points to His thousand-year rule on earth.**

**And that phrase, "I have chosen you," belongs to every believer. Like a signet ring, we are chosen to carry God's will and His message of salvation into the future (Ephesians 1:4). Whatever the headlines say, God has not surrendered His authority. The kingdoms of this world, and the kingdom of darkness, are temporary. His kingdom is eternal. If you belong to Jesus Christ, your future is not determined by the instability of this world, and your future is secured by the King who chose you.**

**God's blessing starts the day you turn to Him - even before you see the benefit. This week, name one empty barn in your life and ask God to show Himself faithful before you see any harvest. If you have never trusted Jesus, the first step is simple: confess that Jesus is Lord and believe God raised Him from the dead, and you will be saved (Romans 10:9).**

# Discussion Questions

1. **Where have you seen a hardship turn out to be God getting your attention? What did it take for you to turn toward Him?**

2. **Why do you think God says "consider" so often in this passage? What would it look like to consider your situation honestly this week?**

3. **What is one empty barn in your life right now - something you're waiting on but can't yet see? How can you trust God's faithfulness there?**

4. **How does it change the way you read the news to know that God has not surrendered His authority?**

5. **What does it mean to you that God says, "I have chosen you"? How could you carry His message to someone this week?**