A dream
WORTH BUILDING

week 6
sermon notes

before we begin

What is God seeing that the people aren't seeing?

where we are

Last week God said, "Be strong… and work." Now, on foundation-laying day, 18 December 520 BC, the work is underway and surely God is pleased. Then God sends Haggai with questions. A celebration becomes an examination.

thought one: Why Is God Asking These Questions?

Even on a day of real progress, God examines the worker before he accepts the work.

God has not come to inspect the building project. He has come to examine the people building it.

thought two: What Do the Priests' Answers Reveal?

Holiness cannot be passed along secondhand, but defilement spreads by touch.

Holy meat cannot make the food holy (v. 12), but whatever an unclean person touches becomes unclean (v. 13).

thought three: What Problem Is God Actually Exposing?

God will not let this slide. The symptoms: we made ourselves the priority, left him out, trusted our own voice, measured God's work by what we could see, and worked afraid without depending on his presence.

The disease: "Whatever we do. Whatever we offer. We are defiled."

WHO CAN MAKE US CLEAN?
The ashes made people outwardly clean (Hebrews 9:13). Jesus reaches the conscience, the place where who we are lives (Hebrews 9:14)
Only Jesus can make us clean.

the big idea

God declared the community's work and offerings defiled because the people themselves were defiled.

preaching idea

Who we are gets into everything we offer.