

“Let’s Go There”: An Honest Journey Into Advent | Wk 6

12/20/2020 | A Seattle Church: [@ASeattleChurch](#)

“Our Work” by [Brice Herrick](#)

SERMON NOTES:

Brice Asked us to consider:

1. Our posture towards our work life in light of Haggai’s prophetic word to the Israelites — specifically to ask ourselves, “Has work become the highest priority in my life?”

Brice Asked us to observe:

1. How God’s people were trading presence for projects.

- a. Coming out of exile, the Israelites chose to focus their attention on “building their own houses,” instead of “building the house (temple) of God.”
- b. Since temple participation was at the very crux of communion with the Lord (through the Mosaic covenant), to refuse to build the house was at best saying that it did not matter that the Lord was present with them.
- c. The people of God had misplaced their highest priority and traded life with God for life with goals.

2. How God’s people were trading presence for prestige.

- a. As the Israelites respond to their misordered loves and refocus their attention on relating to the Lord, they still end up discouraged by their building project.
- b. Some in the group are old enough to remember the old temple and it feels like a let down to see what they’re now working on because it doesn’t even compare.
- c. They’ve switched their priorities but their heart is still slanted towards selfish ambition and wanting the temple to be great for their name, rather than a way to connect with God.
- d. The people want perceived greatness rather than God’s presence.

3. How God responds to their misplaced priorities.

- a. Amidst being mistreated, God responds with a passion for relationship.
- b. The Lord prophetically promises to be faithful to the covenant and promises future peace.

4. How we as the people of the new covenant (because of what Jesus has done), have the incredible invitation towards access into the presence of God.

- a. We don’t have to relate to Him through a building, but we can now relate to Him in our very own body.
- b. What if 2021 was the year where God’s presence became your highest priority?
- c. What if you truly leaned into your identity as a “living temple.”

REFLECTION QUESTIONS (Small Group & Personal):

WARM-UP: “Together” *(use one or none)*

1. Share a story about a time when you built or renovated something.
2. What is a hobby you have picked up in 2020?

WORD: “Truth”

Leader: Questions below should allow for quick responses, evident by close reading of the text. Choose to use some or all of them (pending pace), as reading of the passage(s) will answer them as well.

- **Sermon Recap (if helpful):** Brice challenged us to reflect on and ask ourselves the question, “Has work become the highest priority in my life?” It’s easy to relate to the people of God in the book of Haggai. In the midst of uncertainty and anxiety, these Israelites choose to hyper focus on their own personal projects and in so doing neglect the very presence of God. They end up trading life with God for life with goals. Yet God responds to their misordered loves with a passion for relationship, encouragement towards a better future, and the promise of peace. Now as the people of the new covenant, because of what Christ has done, we too are called to make His presence our highest priority.

Read Haggai 1:3-11 out loud (as a group) and answer questions
In four sections if helpful vv 1:3-4, 5-6, 7-9, 10-11

Read vv 3-4

- Who is speaking?
- What situation is being addressed?

Read vv 5-6

- What are the actions taken and outcomes of the Israelites? (sowing much-harvesting little...)
- Considering the above, what do you think the morale of the Israelites was?

Read vv 7-9

- What is the command God gives?
- How does God see the situation?

Read vv 10-11

- What has God actively done and why was it happening?

SUPPLEMENTARY STUDY MATERIAL

1. Read Hebrews 10 and reflect on how Christ has opened up a new and living way for us to experience the presence of the Father.
2. Read 1 Peter 2:5 and reflect on what it means to be a “living stone.”
3. Books on allowing our work to first and foremost be infused by God’s presence:
 - a. Every Good Endeavor: Connecting Your Work To God’s Work by Timothy Keller
 - b. Garden City: Work, Rest, & the Art of Being Human by John Mark Comer
 - c. City of God & the Goal of Creation by T. Desmond Alexander

APPLICATION: “Life”:

1. How has 2020 reordered your priorities? Specifically keying in on working to build our own stuff and spending time with God/ in God’s presence.
2. How has not meeting together as freely as a community and on Sundays affected your discipleship journey?
3. Consider if there are any practical steps you can take or want to take to help reorder priorities.

PRAYER “Way”

1. Spend some time in reflective prayer- in 2020 how have your priorities looked with work, projects, and time with God?
2. Do you have any other specific prayer requests?

COMMUNION “Together”

Lead your group in communion in a way that feels right.

- If needed, 1 Corinthians 11:23-27
 - **23** ...that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took bread, **24** and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and said, “This is my body, which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me.” **25** In the same way also he took the cup, after supper, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.” **26** For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

ANNOUNCEMENTS at ASC:

1. **Awesome:** ASC has begun giving away 10% of all donations we receive to help support church-planting, biblical justice, and other non-profits serving our city & world!
2. Consider supporting ASC’s Year-End, “**Big-Give Goal**” to raise \$60,000 [HERE](#) . We are halfway there! You can do so via one-time or recurring gifts, donating appreciated stock, business matching programs, or covering your Subsplash fees for the gifts you are already giving.

3. Read our **ASC End-Of-Year Report** [HERE](#) to see how God has moved in and through our church in the past year!

4. **Invite a friend, Register to join us in-person, or online:**
 - a. **Dec 24: Christmas Eve Services @ Collective Seattle:** Limited Space, there will be a [4pm](#) and [6pm](#) in-person service, and a 5pm online service on FB + YouTube
 - b. **Dec 27: Gratitude Sunday:** Amazing testimonies of God's work at ASC in 2020

5. **All-Church Prayer Call** on Wednesday's from 1230-1pm each week. 1-253-215-8782, 86546382360#

6. **Share testimony** of how God is moving in your life/your group in this season? [HERE](#)

7. How can we **come alongside you** in more specific ways as a church? **Let us know.**

8. Have you been **baptized?** If that is your next step in repentance and faith, **let us know.**