

Haggai Part 3 HANDOUT

7/17/22

HAGGAI 2:10-13 On the twenty-fourth day of the ninth month, in the second year of Darius, the word of the Lord came to the prophet Haggai: 11“This is what the Lord Almighty says: ‘Ask the priests what the law says: 12 If someone carries consecrated meat in the fold of their garment, and that fold touches some bread or stew, some wine, olive oil or other food, does it become consecrated?’”

The priests answered, “No.” 13Then Haggai said, “If a person defiled by contact with a dead body touches one of these things, does it become defiled?”
“Yes,” the priests replied, “it becomes defiled.”

Why the questions? Haggai most likely already knew the answers. God wants to show what is going on in the hearts of the people.

HAGGAI 2:14 Then Haggai said, “‘So it is with this people and this nation in my sight,’ declares the Lord. ‘Whatever they do and whatever they offer there is defiled.’”

God’s people had started rebuilding the temple, but they had started thinking that their work was somehow making them holy.

DEUTERONOMY 7:6 For you are a people holy to the Lord your God. The Lord your God has chosen you out of all the peoples on the face of the earth to be his people, his treasured possession.

- The people didn’t have to earn God’s favor - they already had it.

It’s easy for us to have a similar mindset - God will be more pleased with me because of my work for Him.

MATTHEW 23:27-28 “Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You are like whitewashed tombs, which look beautiful on the outside but on the inside are full of the bones of the dead and everything unclean. 28 In the same way, on the outside you appear to people as righteous but on the inside you are full of hypocrisy and wickedness.”

KEY: We're not trying to achieve holiness by being involved in God's work...we're throwing ourselves into God's work because He has rescued us!

HAGGAI 2:15-17 “ ‘Now give careful thought to this from this day on—consider how things were before one stone was laid on another in the Lord's temple. 16When anyone came to a heap of twenty measures, there were only ten. When anyone went to a wine vat to draw fifty measures, there were only twenty. 17 I struck all the work of your hands with blight, mildew and hail, yet you did not return to me,’ declares the Lord.

- The people had not taken God's interests as their priority. They had gone their own ways, doing what they wanted instead of what God had commanded them to do, and yet, they couldn't grasp why they weren't receiving God's blessing.

HAGGAI 2:18-19 ‘From this day on, from this twenty-fourth day of the ninth month, give careful thought to the day when the foundation of the Lord's temple was laid. Give careful thought: 19 Is there yet any seed left in the barn? Until now, the vine and the fig tree, the pomegranate and the olive tree have not borne fruit. “ ‘**From this day on I will bless you.**’ ”

- Nature is not promising good return...**BUT we see that God's nature will provide the blessing.**
- “From this day on I will bless you.”

KEY: Obeying God does not make you more holy in His sight, but it does bring blessing.

KEY: Contagious holiness is found in Jesus.

EPHESIANS 5:25-27 ...Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her 26 to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, 27and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless.

THE POINT: My response to a Savior that rescued me...in gratitude I lay down my heart and life in obedience.