



The Word at Work

Give Careful Thought To Your Ways

Reading the Word

Key Texts: Haggai 1:1-15

Understanding the Word

The people have a problem v.6, 10-11.

Cause 1: Their priorities are wrong – compare v.4 with 1 Kings 6:15, 18.

Because while you've run around, caught up with taking care of your own houses, my Home is in ruins... (v.9 Msg.)

Cause 2: Their confession is wrong v.2. After original enthusiasm for rebuilding the temple (Ezra 3:6-11) their confession has become negative. But God says 'it is time'.

Consequence 1: Nothing gets done (or, the wrong things get done v.9).

Procrastination is dangerous – it doesn't seem as bad as disobedience.

Consequence 2: God is not glorified, God is not pleased v.8.

Remedy 1: 'Give careful thought to your ways' v.5, 7

Ask yourself - Does what I'm doing now please God? Will it bring him glory?

See 1 Corinthians 10:31, 1 Peter 4:11, 1 Thessalonians 4:1, Hebrews 11:6

Remedy 2: Go do it. Don't put it off any longer. (Philippians 4:13)

Once they've decided to obey (v.12), God is there blessing them (v.13) and he 'stirs up their spirits' (v.14). [Stirs – compare Deuteronomy 32:11 and Psalm 108:2. See also Ephesians 5:18]

Doing the Word

To Discuss:

1. Haggai 1:8 reads 'Go up to the hills and bring wood and build the house, that I may take pleasure in it and that I may be glorified, says the LORD.' What does it mean for us to 'build the house'? Give examples of what this means in practice.
2. Procrastination is more dangerous than disobedience. Do you agree? Why? Why not?

To Do:

3. Do you experience anything similar to the problems described in Haggai 1:6 & 10-11? Take time to 'give careful thought to your ways'. What adjustments do you need to make? Think particularly about your priorities and your confession.
4. Memorise 1 Corinthians 10:31.

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