

Out of Sight, Not Out of Mind

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HAGGAI 2:1-9

Core Competency:

Giving Away My Life- I give away my life to fulfill God's purposes.

And whatever you do, in word or in deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him. (Colossians 3:17)

Using This Study

① EXAMINE His Word

What does God SAY? The words God uses to communicate matters so pay close attention to the details emphasized or repeated in the passage.

② DISCOVER His Word

What does God MEAN? Answer the questions and then bring to your COMMUNITY GROUP to discover and discuss with others.

③ LIVE His Word

How does this truth FIT? God's word is lived in real life so engage with truth in your LIFE GROUP.

Introduction

In Charles Dickens' famous novella A Christmas Carol, the main character, Ebenezer Scrooge, is living a grasping, stingy, joyless life. Against the backdrop of what should have been a cheerful Christmas Eve, the reader is introduced to the miserly, mean-spirited Scrooge whose only concern is the accumulation of money. In this story, Scrooge is visited by three ghosts: one from the past, one from the present, and one from the future. Each "spirit," in its turn, invites him to view various scenes across the span of his life. When Mr. Scrooge sees, in quick succession, significant people and decisions that shaped his life, his perspective suddenly expands. This proves to be transforming.

Interestingly enough, God utilizes a similar approach with Israel. He asks the Jews to consider the past, present, and future as a means to lend perspective and encourage them to persist in rebuilding the temple. Basically, He calls them to remember the former glory of Solomon's temple, to consider the current impoverished state of "this house," and prophecies about a future temple that will exceed the glory of the original. In so doing, He reminds Israel of His Old Covenant promise to be with them and looks forward to the New Covenant when His glory will be unveiled.

As a believer, it is easy to get discouraged, because, at times, serving God does not yield the results you are expecting. As He did in Haggai's day, God is calling you to lift your eyes off of what you can see and set your eyes on the LORD Himself. Accept that God, in his sovereignty, will use the small and imperfect things that you offer, transforming them into vital pieces of His glorious kingdom.

This Week

Trust God's perfect timing, and ask Him for the strength to persist. Nothing you do by faith, in obedience to God, is wasted. As you study the passage this week, ask God to expand your perspective and transform you into the glorious likeness of His Son.

① EXAMINE His Word

What does God SAY? The words God uses to communicate matters so pay close attention to the details emphasized or repeated in the passage:

Haggai 2:1-9

1 On the twenty-first day of the seventh month, the word of the LORD came through Haggai the prophet:

2 “Speak to Zerubbabel son of Shealtiel, governor of Judah, to the high priest Joshua son of Jehozadak, and to the remnant of the people:

3 Who is left among you who saw this house in its former glory? How does it look to you now? Doesn’t it seem like nothing to you?

4 Even so, be strong, Zerubbabel”—this is the LORD’s declaration. “Be strong, Joshua son of Jehozadak, high priest. Be strong, all you people of the land”—this is the LORD’s declaration. “Work! For I am with you” —the declaration of the LORD of Hosts.

5 “This is the promise I made to you when you came out of Egypt, and My Spirit is present among you; don’t be afraid.”

6 For the LORD of Hosts says this: “Once more, in a little while, I am going to shake the heavens and the earth, the sea and the dry land.

7 I will shake all the nations so that the treasures of all the nations will come, and I will fill this house with glory,” says the LORD of Hosts.

8 “The silver and gold belong to Me”—this is the

declaration of the LORD of Hosts.

9 “The final glory of this house will be greater than the first,” says the LORD of Hosts. “I will provide peace in this place” —this is the declaration of the LORD of Hosts.

Ezra 3:10-13

10 When the builders had laid the foundation of the LORD’s temple, the priests, dressed in their robes and holding trumpets, and the Levites descended from Asaph, holding cymbals, took their positions to praise the LORD, as King David of Israel had instructed.

11 They sang with praise and thanksgiving to the LORD: “For He is good; His faithful love to Israel endures forever.” Then all the people gave a great shout of praise to the LORD because the foundation of the LORD’s house had been laid.

12 But many of the older priests, Levites, and family leaders, who had seen the first temple, wept loudly when they saw the foundation of this house, but many others shouted joyfully.

13 The people could not distinguish the sound of the joyful shouting from that of the weeping, because the people were shouting so loudly. And the sound was heard far away.

② DISCOVER His Word

What does God MEAN? Answer the following questions and then bring to your COMMUNITY GROUP to discover and discuss with others.

1. For the purpose of review, what is the current condition of the temple? (Haggai 1:3 & 9)
2. Ezra describes the completion of the temple foundation which happened about 10 years earlier. Read Ezra 3:10-13. Describe the various responses of the Israelites, and explain why you think they responded in this manner.
3. Why do you think that the Lord, speaking through Haggai, brought up the former temple in Haggai 2:3?

4. a) The temple and the things that belonged to it were types or shadows of spiritual realities, especially of God's covenant with His people. Why do you think that the Lord commissioned the rebuilding of a temple that would be far less glorious than Solomon's temple?
 - b) What is the contemporary counterpart to the temple for Christians today (1 Peter 2:4-5, 9), and how are we, as believers, called to the same work as that to which God called Israel?

5. What imperatives does God give in verse 4 and what encouragements does God offer both to Israel and to believers today in the face of discouragement?

6. In verses 6-9, the focus shifts away from the immediate historical context.
 - a) Read John 2:19-21. Who is the desired of all nations?

 - b) How is the desired of nations related to glory mentioned in verses 7 & 9?

 - c) What do you think that God may be trying to communicate by mentioning the future at this particular point?

7. What is the point of verse 8?

8. a) How are you, like Israel, tired or discouraged by failed expectations, disappointment, and doubt resulting from the current state of our church, a ministry in which you are involved, or perhaps the state of your spiritual life?
 - b) What is God's message to you from this passage?

③ LIVE His Word

How does this truth FIT? God's word is lived in real life so engage with truth in your LIFE GROUP.

1. Everyone consider how you spend your time during the week.
 - a. Everyone identify and share one thing you do that you see has little reward now, but will have later or, in eternity.
 - b. Everyone identify and share something that has value for eternity, but is something to which you sometimes struggle to value personally.
 - c. Spend time in prayer with one another about any insights or encouragement from the discussion.
2. What can you do as a group that is an investment in God's kingdom?
 - a. Write down the goal in one sentence. (SMART goal; Specific, Measurable, Agreed to, Realistic, and Time bound).
 - b. Describe the value to God's kingdom.
 - c. Clarify the steps to accomplish the goal.
 - d. Make a list of needed resources.
 - e. Identify the responsibilities of each group member.

Sermon Notes:

30 CORE Competencies

10 Core Beliefs

Trinity *2 Corinthians 13:14*

I believe the God of the Bible is the only true God - Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Salvation by Grace *Ephesians 2:8-9* I believe a person comes into a right relationship with God by His grace, through faith in Jesus Christ.

Authority of the Bible *2 Timothy 3:16-17*

I believe the Bible is the Word of God and has the right to command my belief and action.

Personal God *Psalms 121:1-2*

I believe God is involved in and cares about my daily life.

Identity in Christ *John 1:12*

I believe I am significant because of my position as a child of God.

Church *Ephesians 4:15-16*

I believe the church is God's primary way to accomplish His purposes on earth today.

Humanity *John 3:16*

I believe all people are loved by God and need Jesus Christ as their Savior.

Compassion *Psalms 82:3-4*

I believe God calls all Christians to show compassion to those in need.

Eternity *John 14:1-4*

I believe there is a heaven and a hell and that Jesus Christ is returning to judge the earth and to establish His eternal kingdom.

Stewardship *1 Timothy 6:17-19*

I believe that everything I am or own belongs to God.

Biblical Community *Acts 2:44-47*

I live life with other Christians to accomplish God's purposes in the world.

Giving Away My Time *Colossians 3:17*

I give away my time to fulfill God's purposes.

Giving Away God's Money *2 Corinthians 8:7*

I give away God's money to fulfill God's purposes.

Giving Away My Faith *Ephesians 6:19-20*

I give away my faith to fulfill God's purposes.

Giving Away My Life *Romans 12:1*

I give away my life to fulfill God's purposes.

10 Core Virtues

Joy *John 15:11*

I have inner contentment and purpose in spite of my circumstances.

Peace *Philippians 4:6-7*

I am free from anxiety because things are right between God, me, and others.

Faithfulness *Proverbs 3:3-4*

I demonstrate loyalty in my relationships with others in response to God's loyalty to me.

Self-Control *Titus 2:11-13*

I have the power, through Christ, to control myself.

Humility *Philippians 2:3, 4*

I choose to esteem others above myself.

Love *1 John 4:10-12*

I sacrificially and unconditionally love and forgive others.

Patience *Proverbs 14:29*

I endure patiently under the unavoidable pressures of life.

Kindness/Goodness *1 Thess. 5:15*

I choose to do the right things in my relationships with others.

Gentleness *Philippians 4:5*

I am thoughtful, considerate and calm in dealing with others.

Hope *Hebrews 6:19-20*

I can cope with the hardships of life and with death because of the hope I have in Jesus Christ

10 Core Practices

Worship *Psalms 95:1-7*

I worship God for who He is and what He has done for me.

Prayer *Psalms 66:16-20*

I pray to God to know Him, to lay my request before Him and to find direction for my daily life.

Bible Study *Hebrews 4:12*

I read the Bible to know God, the truth, and to find direction for my daily life.

Single-mindedness *Matthew 6:33* I focus on God and His priorities for my life.

Spiritual Gifts *Romans 12:4-6*

I know and use my spiritual gifts to accomplish God's purposes.