

# Hand to Mouth

HAGGAI 2:10-23

Vol. 2 Num. 20

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## Core Competency:

Eternity- 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.

*"Your heart must not be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in Me. In My Father's house are many dwelling places; if not, I would have told you. I am going away to prepare a place for you. If I go away and prepare a place for you, I will come back and receive you to Myself, so that where I am you may be also. You know the way to where I am going." (John 14:1-4)*

## 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

Over 100 years ago, Dr. Ignaz Semmelweis worked in a hospital in Vienna where maternity patients were dying at five times the rate of mothers who delivered at home. Most of those dying had been treated by medical students who worked on cadavers during an early morning anatomy class and proceeded to make rounds on the maternity ward. After doing some research, Dr. Semmelweis developed a theory that later proved to be true. If the students didn't wash their hands appropriately, then pathogenic bacteria from the cadavers would be transmitted to the mothers via the student's hands. This highlights how easily infection and disease are spread.

Why is good health not as contagious as infection? There are no reports, no studies, and no evidence to support the idea that a sick person, by being exposed to a healthy person, will "catch" good health. A physician cannot, by touching a healthy person, hope to transmit wellness to his or her sick patient. That is ridiculous!

## This Week

In this week's passage, God asks the priests to consider two similar scenarios: 1) Can ordinary food that comes in contact with consecrated meat become holy? And 2) Can ordinary food be contaminated if someone touches a decaying body and then touches ordinary food? God wanted Israel to carefully consider how their disobedience affected every facet of their lives.

He wants us, as believers, to do the same. We think that as long as we do the "spiritual things", or we allow God into some parts of our lives, we are ok. We forget that how we work, how we study, how we treat others, what we prioritize, what we watch, how we spend our leisure time, what we wear, what we drive, how we cannot be compartmentalized.

Allow God's Holy presence to penetrate every part of your life. Seek God, delight yourself in Him, and invite Him to tabernacle in the center of your life. As you do, He will work in you both to will and to act in order to fulfill His good purposes.



# 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 2:10-23

10 On the twenty-fourth day of the ninth month, in the second year of Darius, the word of the LORD came to Haggai the prophet:

11 "This is what the LORD of Hosts says: Ask the

priests for a ruling.

12 If a man is carrying consecrated meat in the

fold of his garment, and it touches bread, stew, wine,

oil, or any other food, does it become holy?" The

priests answered, "No."

13 Then Haggai asked, "If someone defiled by

contact with a corpse touches any of these, does it

become defiled?" The priests answered, "It becomes

defiled."

14 Then Haggai replied, "So is this people, and so

is this nation before Me"—this is the LORD's

declaration. "And so is every work of their hands;

even what they offer there is defiled.

15 "Now, reflect back from this day: Before one

stone was placed on another in the LORD's temple,

16 what state were you in? When someone came to a

grain heap of 20 measures, it only amounted to 10;

when one came to the winepress to dip 50 measures

from the vat, it only amounted to 20.

17 I struck you—all the work of your hands—

## 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. a) God, speaking through Haggai, was making a statement about holiness. Use your own wording to express the principle that God is communicating in verse 12. Try and be succinct.

b) God also made a statement about sin. Use your own wording to express the principle that God is communicating in verse 13. Try and be succinct.

2. Verse 14 says, "So it is with this people and this nation in my sight." How was God saying that these principles applied to what the remnant had been doing?

4. a) In what ways might you be guilty of compartmentalizing: obeying in one area of your life while neglecting another, perhaps even more significant area of sin? What practical steps might you take to allow God full access to all areas of your life?

b) The book of Haggai is about the temple. How would you relate the concept of the temple and the integration of God into all areas of your life?

5. What phrase is repeated 3 times in this passage? What qualities or tendencies do you possess that make this a command that is relevant in your life?

6. How can a believer know whether a trial (like what the ancient Israelites experienced in Haggai 2:16-17) is related to some sin or if it is a natural part of living in a fallen world? Is it important to make this distinction? Explain your answer.

7. Read the following passages and explain how believers are, by faith, to respond to difficulties of many sorts.

a) Hebrews 12:7-10

b) 2 Chronicles 7:11-16

c) James 1:2-4



8. In the final verses of Haggai, God addresses Zerubbabel to encourage him. Make the connection between Zerubbabel, Messiah, and you, as a believer.

a) How is Zerubbabel related to Messiah? 1 Chronicles 3:17-19

b) How is God going to use Zerubbabel? Zechariah 4:6-10 & Psalms 118:22

c) God says he has chosen Zerubbabel. How does this relate to me? Ephesians 1:3-12

## ③LIVE HIS WORD

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

How can your life group function as the temple described in 1 Peter 2:5?

"...you also like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ."

Include in your discussion what it means to be a holy priesthood and how that might work itself out in and through your group. What are spiritual sacrifices that are acceptable to God?

## 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.

## 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.

## 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 sacrifice 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