

November 8, 2009
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Monday

Hag. 1:5 Now therefore, thus says the LORD of hosts, "Consider your ways!

Too few people, including the people of God, really consider life, its meaning, their part. Though created for thought and reason, for consideration and contemplation, we move more like the animals of the field, from one meal to the next rather than like partners in creation, a position to which God has elevated us. The prophet Haggai cries out for a 'considered life'. He calls for a pause in our daily existence to consider deeply our place, our plight, and our plan. What is God's plan for you today? What is your part? What is He saying to you? Consider this!

Tuesday

Hag. 1:6 "You have sown much, but harvest little; you eat, but there is not enough to be satisfied; you drink, but there is not enough to become drunk; you put on clothing, but no one is warm enough; and he who earns, earns wages to put into a purse with holes."

Purses with holes or holy purses? Have you taken the time to consider which you have? Haggai draws a direct correlation between our walk with God and our financial position. His emphasis upon our spending priorities and holy stewardship are certainly as pronounced as anything Malachi ever said. Do you find your money stretching further and providing more, or do you find yourself spending more and having less? What are the reasons? Could it be that God is speaking through your financial situation? What are your fundamental priorities? Do they match God's?

Wednesday

Hag. 1:12 Then Zerubbabel ... and Joshua ..., with all the remnant of the people, ***obeyed the voice of the LORD*** their God and the words of Haggai the prophet, ***because the LORD their God had sent him.***" And the people showed reverence for the LORD.

Hag. 2:19 "...Yet from this day on I will bless you."

Here the pivotal moment of change is recorded. From holey purses to holy blessings, from fruitless labor to fruitful living; what was the change? They obeyed the voice of the Lord. Priorities were reset from self to service. Focus was reset from building 'my house' to restoring 'God's house.' When the people obeyed God, God poured out blessing. Could it be that you have it backwards in your life?

Thursday

Hag. 1:14 So the LORD stirred up the spirit of Zerubbabel ..., and the spirit of Joshua the high priest, and the spirit of all the remnant of the people; and they came and worked on the house of the LORD of hosts, their God,.

Spend your prayer time today asking God to stir your spirit, to stir the spirit of His people, to stir the spirit of His leaders. The result will be a new desire for service and renewed power in the work of the Lord. Contemplate your priorities. Consider your commitments. Focus upon God's plan and purpose. Let your spirit be stirred.

Friday

Hag. 2:12 'If a man carries holy meat in the fold of his garment, and touches bread with this fold, or cooked food, wine, oil, or any other food, will it become holy?'" And the priests answered, "No."

What is the meaning of this? Simply that holiness is not imparted by contact with holy things, instead holiness depends upon the heart of the person before God. It will not do simply to be in holy places (church), or to be associated with holy people, or to be involved in holy work. God calls for a holy heart, a heart consecrated to Him. The actions of worship are important, but they do not in themselves embody worship. Acts of ministry are important, but acts of themselves do not constitute godly ministry. God sees past our actions to our attitudes, past our acts to our internal motivations for them. Holiness is of the heart.