

THE PROPHETABLE CHURCH

MAJOR LESSONS from the MINOR PROPHETS

HAGGAI

THE IMPORTANCE OF GOD'S PRIORITIES

Haggai 1:1~15; 2:15~23

August 31, 2014

I. INTRODUCTION

- A. Whatever our true priorities are they will eventually show by the way we live.
- B. The people in Haggai's day were called to rebuild the temple in Jerusalem after the exile but they had neglected the work for 18 years.
- C. Consequently their economy, crops, and commerce were failing.
- D. Haggai called the people back to living according to God's priorities.

LIVING BY GOD'S PRIORITIES IS THE KEY TO HIS CONTINUED BLESSING.

II. WHAT WERE GOD'S PRIORITIES FOR HIS PEOPLE?

- A. Living by God's priorities means that God's interests must come before our interests.
(Haggai 1:1-11)
 1. We do not come first. We live first for God and others.
 2. But the exiles in Jerusalem were living for their interests not God's interests.
(Haggai 1:3-4)
 3. So Haggai called them to remember that they couldn't ignore God's interests and be blessed.
(Haggai 1:5-11)

4. We are called to live Kingdom first with God's interests ahead of our own.
(Matthew 6:25-33)

5. Perhaps one of the reasons we so often struggle is that we are living more self-focused than God-focused.

- B. Living by God's priorities means that our obedience must come before displays of worship.
(Haggai 1:12-15; 2:10-14)

1. We can't be refusing to obey God in one area of our life and expect that God will accept our displays of worship.

2. The people thought they could bring their offerings to the unfinished temple to consecrate them to God and He would accept them. He didn't.
(Haggai 2:10-14)

3. God was looking for obedience before their displays of worship.
(Haggai 1:12-13)

4. That has always been true and is still true for us.

(1Samuel 15:1-3; 7-23; Hebrews 10:26-31; John 4:23-24)

5. When the people obeyed, on that very day, God's blessings returned.
(Haggai 2:15-19)

III. CONCLUSION

- A. Zerubbabel's obedience fulfilled part of the plan for God's bringing forth the Messiah from David's line.
(Haggai 2:20-23)
- B. Zerubbabel was God's signet ring, a descendent of David through whom would come the Messiah.
(2 Kings 25:27-30; Matthew 1:12-17)
- C. Today, we are God's instrument to further God's Kingdom work which is why living by God's priorities is so important.
(Hebrews 12:25-29)