

Sermon Topic: Consider How You Have Fared

Sermon Text: Haggai 1:1-12, Matthew 7:21-27

**Big Idea:** When God's alarm wakes us to re-order our priorities, don't sleep through it.

**1. Introduction:**

- The function of an alarm clock
- God has alarm clocks in the Bible

**2. Prior Haggai's Entry:**

God's people:

- a. Were d\_\_\_\_\_ at the voice of God
- b. Were d\_\_\_\_\_ by decree of God
  - i. God purposed Nebuchadnezzar to humble the rebellious
    - Those who d\_\_\_\_\_ all the way will die by the sword of the enemy
- c. Were d\_\_\_\_\_ as promised by God
  - i. God promised to bring the obedient home
    - Those who d\_\_\_\_\_ their rebellion will return home to rebuild

➔ **God will always wake up His people when their hearts go wrong.**

**3. Time's Up, Time to Return**

When 70 years of captivity ended, they RETURNED to homeland, REBUILT the foundation of temple, but RETREATED from completion of work.

*"Having no heart for the work of God, they easily interpreted the obstacles as divine hints that they were not to engage in it and turned to the greedy advancement of their own private affairs." – T.V Moore*

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Haggai asks:

- Why do you say IT IS NOT YET TIME to build my house? (1:2)
- Why have you NO CONCERN for My house in ruins?
- Why do you CARE MORE FOR YOUR OWN HOUSE? (1:4)

#### 4. What Happened To My House?

Back in the Old Testament, the temple was:

- Not a local community center
- Central to the worship of God and the study of His law
- A sacred place of encounter

Snoozing the rebuilding of the temple was a huge statement: GOD DOESN'T MATTER.

**+ Pay attention to the c\_\_\_\_\_ of your heart:**

- The reason is not one of time or resources but priority

**+ Pay attention to the c\_\_\_\_\_ of your ways:**

- The result is one of frustration and discontentment

**+ Pay attention to the c\_\_\_\_\_ of My House:**

- The reaction to Haggai is one of obedience

#### 5. We Need No Temple Today Because Jesus is the New Temple

- He is the new place where followers meet and worship God (Matt 12:6)
- We are living stones, Christ is foundation and cornerstone (1 Pet 2:5):
  - Our job description
  - Christ's job description

#### 6. Are We Listening These Days?

- Paying attention to God: is it too much hassle? Too much adjustment? Too inconvenient?

**➔ *God will always wake us up when our hearts go wrong. Do we pay attention or do we delay our action?***

#### Discussion Questions:

1. Read Ezra 5:1-17, there was a 15-year delay in rebuilding the temple. In your life, what has taken many years to do right? How do you explain for the delay you experienced?
2. According to Haggai 1, what priority problems did the Jews have in Haggai's day?
3. What did God have to say about dealing with inappropriate priorities and how did the Jews respond to Haggai's message (1:3-15)?
4. What is God saying to you about your priorities in light of what you have learnt? What will you do differently after this lesson?