



“Can God Trust Me From Now On”

We aren't so different from the Jews in the time of Haggai. God wanted to greatly bless them, but He needed to get their attention to do that. The rebuilding of the temple was His way of restoring them to a right relationship with Himself. The way He bestowed His blessings was also evidence that He wants the attention of His people. God's plan of restoring us and blessing is truly amazing. His ultimate gift is foreshadowed through Haggai's words. Read the following passages and look for the evidence of how our God wants to bless His people.

knowthestory – (connect to the text)

day 1: Evidence of Mold in Our Lives

Read Haggai 2.10-14

What two word pictures does God communicate about clean and unclean?

Can holiness be transferred by contact or association? Can dirt or defilement be transferred?

Why or why not? Explain each answer.

Reread verse 14. Do you think the Jews were surprised to hear that God wasn't pleased with them?

How do you respond when you see that your “ways” aren't what God wants?

What things could be contaminating your life right now? List them out. How are you dealing with these things?

Fast forward the tape to the time of Jesus Christ. His death paid our debt of sin to God.

How does what Christ did on the cross parallel this story? How are we made clean?

day 2: The Blessings of God, Then and Now

Read Haggai 2.15-19

Take a moment to look back at the entire book of Haggai.

What are some characteristics of God that you see? (State the verses.)

What did God do to get the attention of the Israelites?

How would you feel if your work only produced half of what you expected?

What would be some of the possible conclusions to a disappointing year?

What was God's plan for thwarting their efforts? How had they been responding to God's prompting?

What changed for God to re-offer His blessing?

What do you think God wants from us? What is the opposite of “moldiness” in God's eyes?

What are some ways people today try to get themselves right with God?

Do you think God is satisfied with these efforts? Why or why not?

Could God be trying to get your attention right now? What do you think He wants from you?

What are you going to do about it? When will you start?

day 3: The Blessings of God, Now and Forever

Read Haggai 2.20-23

What promise does God give Zerubbabel through Haggai?

Imagine Zerubbabel standing in a pile of rubble or in front of an unfinished building that was much smaller and less opulent than the original one. What might he think about this promise?

This promise was not only to Zerubbabel and his immediate circumstances but also a prophecy, foreshadowing Israel's coming King. It was a prophecy of Jesus rising above the nations. Fast forward the tape. How does the image of Jesus in the manger connect with the prophecy of Haggai? Why did God come in human skin as a baby?

How is that rising above the nations? What need was Jesus meeting in fulfilling the prophecy that way?

Download and listen to Handel's *Messiah* specifically, to the *Hallelujah Chorus*. Listen for these lyrics:

The kingdom of this world, Is become the kingdom of our Lord, And of His Christ, and of His Christ; And He shall reign for ever and ever, For ever and ever, forever and ever, King of kings, and Lord of lords, King of kings, and Lord of lords, And Lord of lords, And He shall reign, And He shall reign forever and ever, King of kings, forever and ever, And Lord of lords, Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

Are you experiencing God's blessing? How can Jesus, the King, fulfill His promises in your life, right now?

As you continue through this week, meditate on the idea of Jesus, King of Kings. Because of Him, we are blessed.

livethestory – (connect to the table) small group **discussion**

Tell of a time when someone or something in your life rubbed off on you in a bad way.

What are some things that are contaminating your life right now?

How is God showing you that?

Are you experiencing great blessings from God?

What can you do to replace the things that are pulling you away from God?

Are there some verses you can claim that will show you God's promises, and His hope?

Have you decided to change something in your life from a certain day forward?

Share with each other how you see God blessing that decision in your life.

God has always had a plan to get us clean, and bring us into an ongoing relationship with Him. How does that make you feel?

How important is that to you? Are you able to share that with others? Who do you need to share that with?

What do you think most people believe God wants from them?

How do they go about pleasing God? Is pleasing God even possible?

How important is our heart's obedience to God, and how does that affect our relationship with Him?

Have someone read Haggai 2:10-23.

What was the state of Israel, in God's eyes, before they began construction on the Temple? How about after?

What is the main message God wants to impress upon them about Himself and His plans?

As a life group, take time and pray for God to open your eyes to the things that are pulling you away from God and making you unclean in His eyes. Commit to supporting and encouraging each other in the things that God has shown you that need to be avoided, ended, or taken out of your life and routine, and the ones that need to be added. Praise God for the blessings that He is giving you right now, especially the gift of Jesus.

tellthestory – (connect to the towel) finding ways to serve

One of the truths of the Text is that we have been blessed to be a blessing. While we don't get to choose when or how God will bless us, we do have a say in how we allow God to use us to bless others.

Who do you need to bless this week? How are you going to bless them?

Get creative! Last week someone came up to Pastor Tim and told him that they had realized just how blessed they were. They could go to the store whenever they wanted. They could buy whatever they wanted. They could go out and eat wherever and whenever they wanted. And God convicted them that they needed to share the blessing. So, they went out and bought gift cards to places like Starbucks to give to people who could never afford to go but coffee at Starbucks. What a great idea! What idea is God planting in your heart so you can bless someone else by serving them? Do it this week!

Think carefully about serving in the following ways from now on...

- through one of the ongoing ministries of our community of faith (some of them don't take much time)
- in a Life Group
- starting a new outreach for the students, staffs and families of our schools (Kinder and Neff)

Make sure to contact Sandra Hilty, our CONNECT Director, and get involved.

Email Sandra at connect@miamivalley.org or at sandrahilty@miamivalley.org or call her at the office 937-847-0757.