

Refocused Part 1
Consider This!
Haggai 1;1-15

Introduction: Haggai is second only to Obadiah in brevity among the O.T. books, but it contains four strong sermons that are used to bring the people to an understanding that circumstances get difficult when people place their own selfish interests before God's. In his first message Haggai instructs the people to consider three things.

I. Consider your attitude:

A. Our attitudes direct our priorities –

1. The attitude is an inward feeling expressed by behavior:

2. The attitude can be masked to fool others.

B. Right attitudes produce right priorities –

- The temple was the visible reminder of the person, power and presence of God with His people –
- But the people had become distracted – lost interest, and God's house was no longer a priority – which meant God Himself was no longer a priority

II. Consider your actions:

- One of the most insistent Old Testament teachings is that national adversity is due to national disobedience to God.
- The same is true for the individual and the church!

1. Stop making excuses- (1:1-4)

- a.** They used political opposition and a theory that the temple was not to be rebuilt until sometime later, as an excuse for neglecting the house of the Lord.
- b.** Like us today, the people were satisfied to work on their own personal projects until the time came that they felt like working on God's. It was in this context God used Haggai to remind the people (v.8) *build the temple, that I may take pleasure in it and be glorified,*"

2. Start considering you circumstances (1:5-11)

- a. They built paneled houses (a sign of wealth)
- b. They planted fields and set up vineyards
- c. But the more they did, the more work it required – and while hard work wasn't the problem, the priority of the work was.
- d. They people were becoming materially prosperous and spiritually bankrupt.

Jesus once asked - "For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? (Mark 8:36) God's concern is that we seek first His kingdom (Mt.6:33)– and He will add all we need to that.

Our focus needs to be on building the kingdom of God not our own kingdom -

III. Consider your assumptions:

Because the people had been so indifferent to God, God has to further explain – all they have done is not getting them anywhere.

1. The struggles they were encountering were a result of not putting God first – (1:6, 9-11)

- God was calling on the people to refocus and renew their relationship with Him and take the necessary steps to get back on track!
- What were they to do?

2. Start getting to work on the solution – The Lord commanded them to get back to work on His house.

a. God gave them three commands – (1:8)

b. God expected one response – obedience!

- When God speaks to us by His Word, there is only one acceptable response, and that's obedience. There is nothing more pleasing that we can do for God than to be obedient to His Word. (Rom.8:31)

Conclusion: God called on His people to consider their attitudes that were producing actions that neither pleased Him nor glorified Him. God let them know up front: He was not concerned or interested in their excuses or explanations – Just in their obedience! Only that would bring them blessing once again. God is still saying the same thing to us today.