

WHAT'S THE POINT?

Haggai 2:3-6



SYNOPSIS

This past Sunday, we spent time looking at the exiles who had returned from Babylon and the temple that they were building. The people realize that the temple they are building will never be as glorious as the temple that Solomon had built. Solomon built the temple with a tremendous amount of resources and peace all around them. These exiles had limited resources and danger all around. They were trying to work on their own homes and fields while building the temple. They were trying to protect themselves from danger around them. They realize that because they are human, they have limitations. It's hard to serve God wholeheartedly while being mindful of all the other things.

In the same ways, we realize that because we are human, we are limited. While we are to be faithful in every sphere of our lives, we must realize that we cannot wholeheartedly pursue everything. We can only pursue a few things.

Yet, even after the Israelites make sacrifices in order to worship God, things don't look good. They're left wondering, "What's the point?" We too wonder "What's the point of wholeheartedly seeking Jesus? Is it really going to make a difference?"

In the midst of the struggle, God sends Haggai to tell the people that the obstacles are real, but so is His nearness. He is with them in the midst of everything. Even though the people are discouraged, it's only because they're measuring the glory of the temple by worldly standards. But God sees things differently. And He often does things differently. Often times, we need to be humbled so that we can focus on His promises and His strength.

In the times where we wonder what's the point, let's not gravitate so quickly to the guaranteed results, but rather, let's focus on obedience and trust, because ultimately God is not glorified by our success, but by our trust in Him.



OUTLINE

1

WHOLEHEARTED PURSUIT

We must recognize our humanity and our limitations. We aren't able to wholeheartedly pursue everything and do well in everything. We can only focus on a few things. The Israelites experienced this in the rebuilding of the temple as they were simultaneously building while raising their families, building their own homes, protecting themselves from danger. Though we are to be faithful, we simply cannot wholeheartedly pursue everything the world tells us to.

2

GOD'S PROMISES TO US

We can get discouraged and say "What's the point?" But God never promises that it will be easy. He never promises that we won't experience opposition. He certainly doesn't promise that we will have success. God is not a blind optimist. God loves us, but He isn't about hyping us up. He promises us that He will be with us.

3

OUR RESPONSE TO GOD

At times, when we wonder "What's the point?" We are after a guaranteed result. We want a return on our investment. But guaranteed results shouldn't be our concern. God is not glorified by our success but by our obedience and trust. When we give him our rights and the things we value, He is glorified and honored. As we worship Him and trust in Him, let's be less concerned about the results and more about obedience and faithfulness.



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DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1

What are all things that you want in life? For your kids? For your job? For your relationships?

2

Are you motivated by results and by your own ability to make a difference? How would you feel if you found that your work alone will be fruitless?

3

What is God calling you to sacrifice? What valuable, costly things, values, rights, ambitions, desires, even good things, has God called you to give up for His sake? For His glory? For the hope of His promise?

4

Where do you need God's help and presence right now?

5

What things in your life are you asking "what's the point?" Where do you feel hopeless?



BIG IDEA

In this life, there will be many things for us to pursue. As human beings, we experience limitations, and though we can be faithful in all spheres of our life, we can really only wholeheartedly pursue a few things. As we wholeheartedly pursue God, we will need to let other things go. Sometimes, we are discouraged, that even after making sacrifices, things don't turn out the way we expect. And yet, we need to come back to God and trust in His promises. His promise is not that we will have success, but that He will be with us through it all. And so our response is one of further trust and obedience, trusting that when we lay down our rights and the things to value to rightly worship Him, He is honored and glorified and pleased with us.