

Discussion Questions for Haggai Chapter One

1. Watch the YouTube clip of the overview of the Book of Haggai. Are there aspects of the overview that you would like to note and/or discuss? Online search for, The Bible Project Haggai. It's at

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=juPvv_xcX-U&index=38&list=PLH0Szn1yYNeeVFodk19J_WEATHQCwRZ0u

2. God's call to His people in Jerusalem was a wakeup call to get on with their God given priorities.

- a) What were those priorities? See Ezra 1:1-8.
- b) Why were those priorities important to God and to the people of God?

3. The rebuilding of the Temple involved hard back-breaking work and blistered and splintered hands as the timbers were cut in the mountains and then transported to Jerusalem and used in construction. (Haggai 1:8) What is your experience of putting God first: smooth hands or blistered hands or ...?

4. Haggai implies that the people of God will be rewarded/blessed if they obey God. (Haggai 1:9-11)

Does God always reward obedience to Him with financial prosperity? Discuss.

Some factors to consider mentioned in the Sunday morning's sermon:

- a) We neglect God and the things that we strive for don't happen. Our neglect of God brings about our downfall.
- b) Haggai spoke God's call to his people at a particular time and place.
- c) Experience in slum ministry shows that people who become Christians adopt a lifestyle that facilitates personal health, improved relationships and social and economic wellbeing.
- d) Some babies are born in slums, some babies are born in mansions. At times an individual and community find themselves in a green valley and at other times in a barren desert. In whatever context we find ourselves, we are called to be God's stewards: faithful stewards of God's grace to us in Christ.
- e) God works in barren places, that's why some Christians are placed there. That's hard. But God wants all people to worship Him and act on His priorities.

5. In and through Christ, the Church, and followers of Christ become the temple of God. (1 Cor 3:16, 6:19; 2 Cor 6:16; Eph 2:21,22) See,

¹⁶ *Don't you know that you yourselves are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in your midst?* (1 Corinthians 3:16)

¹⁹ *Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; ²⁰ you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your bodies.* (1 Corinthians 6:19)

What then are the priorities of God's people? In what way might this be a wake up call?

6. Take time for silent prayerful reflection on your personal priorities and on the priorities of your Christian community. Take note of them. Share as appropriate.