

CONSIDER YOUR WAYS: Resetting Our Priorities

Pastor Brandon Zieske

Text: Haggai 1:1-15

BIG QUESTION: Is there some unfinished assignment in your life?

BACKGROUND::

VERSE 1-2 - NO MORE EXCUSES

Our excuses are a pretext for our own selfishness.

VERSE 3-6 - UNDERSTANDING WHY

Whenever we choose comfort over obedience we reveal our misplaced priorities.

Consider your ways – This is an appeal to see the reality of our choices.

BIG IDEA: A life that doesn't have God as top priority will always be an unsatisfied life.

VERSE 7-11 - RESETTING OUR PRIORITIES

Consider your ways – Do you live for God's pleasure or your own? Do you live for God's glory or your own?

Why would God cause a drought?

If God loves us then God will discipline us.

Jesus' Words - Matthew 6:25-34

VERSE 12-15 - WHAT'S BETTER THAN IMMANUEL?

Consider your ways - Consider the blessings on the other side of obedience.

God promises His presence to stir us up for obedience.

CONSIDER YOUR WAYS::

How has God been trying to get your attention?

What unfinished assignment in your life must you start and/or complete?

What will you offer God? your excuses or your heart?

Food for Thought for the week of November 15, 2015

(Questions and Scriptures for further study and discussion)

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1. Looking back at your notes from this week's sermon, was there anything that particularly caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?

2. When you work on a project, what stage do you find requires extra motivation: the start, mid-way, the finish? What is that motivation for you? If you lead others in a project, which phase is most likely to bog down? Why? What are some tactics you use to help regain momentum? Can you relate to the temple builders?

3. Throughout the history of God's covenant people, right up to verse 13 of this chapter in Haggai, the temple was a tangible declaration of God's presence with them. What caused "these people" to become apathetic about that gift? What forces in our present lives tempt us to become apathetic toward God's invitation to be present with us?

4. Pastor Brandon emphasized what God spoke through Haggai saying, "Give careful thought to your ways," or "consider your ways". (2 Corinthians 13:5) Discuss what personal practices you have found that better enable you to do this. What areas of life are especially important for personal scrutiny but are easily overlooked?

5. Thinking back to the previous week with Isik Abla, we were challenged similarly to examine our hearts for any hindrance to be removed that prevents growing into a deeper relationship with Jesus Christ. What is the cost of this? (Galatians 2:20) What is the cost of not?

6. When a negative circumstance (drought) disrupts your life, do you assume God is intervening for purposes of punishment, discipline, alerting, motivation? How can you determine this?

Application: In order to be intentional with the mandate to examine ourselves, consider adopting the practice of journal writing to record what God reveals and develops in you.

Further reading:

Ezra 3:8-13, 4:1-5, 24, 5:1-2; Exodus 40:34-35; 1 Corinthians 3:16, 6:19; Hebrews 12:4-11; Matthew 6:25-34; Jeremiah 17:10; Luke 12:32-34

November 15, 2015



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