

Liberty Baptist Church Scripture Reflections

The Problem of New Normal

Life Group Discussion
August 23, 2020

This Discussion Guide is prepared to help believers apply the truths of Scripture to life. As you prepare, make sure you have read the Scripture text and listened to the Sermon. If you missed the Sermon, go to www.experiencelibrary.org and select the Sermon title listed above.

Sermon Bible Verses: **Haggai 2**

“If we are not careful, we will slide back to things and vices we once left. Tough times make a good excuse to fall back.”

Bad times make a good excuse to not serve God.

- What are some examples people give to not serve the kingdom? What may have been some of your personal excuses to not serve?
- How do you feel when you realize your lack of commitment might be hindering your spiritual growth? What if someone you knew stopped serving because they saw you not serving the kingdom...how do you reconcile that negative influence?
- Why is it when adversity show up, we tend to slide back to the things we used to do and forget what God brought us from?

10 On the twenty-fourth day of the ninth month, in the second year of Darius, the word of the LORD came by Haggai the prophet, saying, 11 “Thus says the LORD of hosts: ‘Now, ask the priests concerning the law, saying, 12 “If one carries holy meat in the fold of his garment, and with the edge he touches bread or stew, wine or oil, or any food, will it become holy?” ’” Then the priests answered and said, “No.” 13 And Haggai said, “If one who is unclean because of a dead body touches any of these, will it be unclean?” So the priests answered and said, “It shall be unclean.” 14 Then Haggai answered and said, “‘So is this people, and so is this nation before Me,’ says the LORD, ‘and so is every work of their hands; and what they offer there is unclean.

1. You can catch sickness but you can’t catch health

Haggai states two basic principles concerning holiness in the above passage:

- 1. Holiness is not transmittable 2. Unholiness is transmittable.
- What does being holy mean, what does that look like in the life of a believer? (For a word study see the Hebrew for qadash)
- If I have consecrated my life to serve God both in my heart and life, can my consecration extend to my children or friends so they can be consecrated...does my consecration make them consecrated?

- Salvation isn't hereditary...explain.

The people of Israel were apparently thinking that since they were working on the holy temple all that they contacted and did became holy. That's incorrect thinking.

- How does our understanding of holiness become distorted? Do we count on externals to make us holy such as wearing a Christian t-shirt or jewelry or being in church?
- There is a difference in being *in* church and *being* the church. What is the difference?

(Because only God is holy, any people or objects that are said to be holy are described in this manner because God has made them holy or set them apart. Therefore, holy is applied to persons or objects that have a relationship with the Lord - they are set apart for His service.)

The nation of Israel was to be holy, or set apart, because God is holy:

You are to be holy to me because I, the LORD, am holy, and I have set you apart from the nations to be my own (Leviticus 20:26).

- What might be some difficulties in living a life that is set apart from the worldly way of living? Have you lost family or friends because of your faith?

15 And now, carefully consider from this day forward: from before stone was laid upon stone in the temple of the LORD— 16 since those days, when one came to a heap of twenty ephahs, there were but ten; when one came to the wine vat to draw out fifty baths from the press, there were but twenty. 17 "I struck you with blight and mildew and hail in all the labors of your hands; yet you did not turn to Me," says the LORD. 18 Consider now from this day forward, from the twenty-fourth day of the ninth month, from the day that the foundation of the LORD's temple was laid—consider it: 19 Is the seed still in the barn? As yet the vine, the fig tree, the pomegranate, and the olive tree have not yielded fruit. But from this day I will bless you."

- Consider why you may be having setbacks or are less prosperous (not monetarily) in the things you are attempting to do. What might be some reasons?
- When trouble comes to your life how do you handle the issue(s)?
- How do you know when God is the one who is sending the stumbling blocks? How often do you blame others or the devil for the setbacks?
- What does it take to gain the favor of God in your life, remembering that favor often doesn't look like what we think it looks like?
- Rather than God blessing us, how can we bless God?