



"Prioritize Our Lives - Work Together"

-The Book of Haggai

Date: 3-10-24 LESSON 4

**"With every work of their hands"
(Haggai 2:10b-14)**

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SEVEN MISSION PRIORITIES

MISSION PRIORITY #3

"Perform human care in close proximity to Word and Sacrament ministries"

A. THE TEXT

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**,

(11) **"Thus says the Lord of hosts: Ask the priests about the law:** (12) **'If someone carries holy meat in the fold of his garment and touches with his fold bread or stew or wine or oil or any kind of food, does it become holy?'"**

The priests answered and said, "No."

(13) Then Haggai said, "If someone who is unclean by contact with a dead body touches any of these, does it become unclean?"

The priests answered and said, "It does become unclean."

(14) Then Haggai answered and said, "So is it with this people, and with this nation before me, **declares the Lord**, and so with **every work of their hands**. And what they offer there is unclean.

B. THE KEY PEOPLE and THE HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

1. Darius the king – Hystaspis ruler of Persia (522-486 B.C.)
2. Haggai the prophet (**Ezr 5:1-2; 6:14**)
3. Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, governor of Judah – Sheshbazzar (**Ezr 1:8**)
4. Joshua the son of Jehozadak, the high priest
(taken captive by Nebuchadnezzar in **1 Chr 6:15**)
5. The remnant of the people
6. The last day of the Feast of Tabernacles- 21st day of the 7th month = Oct. 17, 520 B.C.
7. From 333-330 B.C. Alexander the Great would defeat the Persians, nations rise and fall.

C. THE STUDY NOTES

1. Dec. 18, 520 B.C. was the 24th day of the 9th month – in winter when crops were planted.
2. Priests were always consulted to explain the details about the Law (**Dt 17:8-13; Jer 18:18; Mal 2:7-9**).
3. Meat that was consecrated was set apart for sacrifices and thus became "holy," and since it touched one's garments when it was carried, it then made the garments also "holy." But you could not then pass this holiness onto other objects. (**Lev 6:27; Ezek 46:20**)
4. When one is unclean, then everything one touches becomes unclean (**Nu 19:11-13,22**)
5. Whatever an unclean people do is also unclean and defiled. Yes, God's people were back in the holy land, but that in itself did not make them holy and clean. Only through true faith and obedience and rebuilding the temple could they themselves become clean and holy.
6. Jesus explains what true uncleanness or cleanness is in the heart.
(**Mark 7:14-23; Lk 11:37-41; Jn 15:3; Rom 14:20; 1 Tim 4:4,5; Heb 10:22**)

“The prophet exhorts them not only as people who are afraid but also as the weary. The first temptation [to be afraid] commonly occurs when we are enthusiastic about divine matters and the things which **the Word of God** commanded, because Satan does not cease besetting us with various adversities. Then, when he sees that that hope is failing him and that he can establish nothing at the left hand, he turns to the right hand to call us away from **the works of God** with an ignoble laziness and lack of concern.

You see, it is with a sort of smugness that he attacks us when we are not careful and cautious enough. Surely this is not a minimal temptation. In fact, it demands a greater warning than when we are openly evil. This entire discourse, then, addresses itself against the smugness of the people. For this purpose the prophet goes into the question of holy flesh, as the text says, in which question the prophet rebukes their negligence and carelessness and sets up penalties. **God** wants us to press on with what we have begun that our work may come to a boil. If this does not happen, if we do not energetically perform our job in a matter which God has commanded us, this displeases **God**, no matter how good the work may otherwise be.”

E. MISSION PRIORITY #3

“Perform human care in close proximity to Word and Sacrament ministries”

What does this mean?

Human care is both the fruit of the Gospel and a confession of our faith in Jesus **Christ**. Faith in **Christ**, whose mercy and grace is extended to all without partiality through the preached Word and Sacraments, calls for the church and disciples of **the Lord Jesus** to reach out in mercy with human care to all who are in need and to all who suffer under the brokenness of this fallen world. For this reason, human care is performed in close proximity to Word and Sacrament ministries. Whether in response to a disaster or to a short-term or ongoing human need, Christians have the joyful privilege of sharing **Christ’s love** with others in both temporal and spiritual ways. Included in such human care is the promotion of good health for church workers, congregation members and the community. All human need is rooted in the problem of sin and death, which affects all of creation and for which **the Gospel of Christ** is the ultimate remedy and source of renewal.



Scripture reference: Romans 15:25–28

NEXT WEEK 3-17-24 LESSON 5

“But from this day on I will bless you” (Haggai 2:15-19)

SEVEN MISSION PRIORITIES

MISSION PRIORITY #4

“Collaborate with the Synod’s members and partners to enhance mission effectiveness”

