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2  **THE PEOPLE'S PROBLEM**

The Apathy of the People toward God's Work

(Haggai 1:1-11)


3  **The poison of apathy**

- Led to selfish preoccupation – ceiled houses
- ...which led to serious problems
 - with satisfaction (always wanted more)
 - with supply (never had enough)
 - with sight (couldn't see needs of others)
 - with skirmishing (fought with each other)

4  **GOD'S PRESCRIPTION**

The Appointment of the People to God's Way

(Haggai 1:1-11)

5  **Key verse – Haggai 1:8**

- *Go up to the mountain, and bring wood, and build the house; and I will take pleasure in it, and I will be glorified, saith the LORD.*
- Three commands:
 - Go
 - Bring
 - Build
- One objective: to please and glorify the Lord

6  **Go to the place of resource**

- Go to the mountain
 - Where they would get the cedar they needed for the Temple
 - Took a lot of work on top of the mountain
 - Work resulted in resources needed for ministry
- Hudson Taylor, missionary to China, once said, *"You can work without praying, but it is a bad plan, but you cannot earnestly pray without working."*

7  **Prayer, not ritual**

- 2 way conversation
 - Scripture praying
 - Best way to find rhemas
- Should be labor of love, not ritual
- Prayer is the true resource of strength and energy to do God's will

8  **Bring resources**

- Isaiah 40:31 – waiting on the Lord provides STRENGTH
- Philippians 4:6-7 -- *Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.*

9  **Bring resources (2)**

- Prayer is our place of resource (Phil 4:6,7)
 - God hears and answers our requests
 - God gives peace that passes understanding
 - Our hearts remain focused on Him
- The insights given in 2-way Scripture praying provide rhemas that powerfully direct your life, your family, and your ministry
- Keys: strength, focus, peace, supply

10  **Build God's house**

- We are not blessed in the hearing or the saying of God's Word but in the DOING of it.
 - James 1:22 -- *But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves.*
- Take the focus, direction, strength, and supply God gives and DO His will.


11  **THE PRAISE**

The Action of the People in God's Will


(Haggai 1:12ff.)

12  **A new reverence**

- Haggai 1:12 -- *Then Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, and Joshua the son of Josedech, the high priest, with all the remnant of the people, obeyed the voice of the LORD their God, and the words of Haggai the prophet, as the LORD their God had sent him, and the people did fear before the LORD.*
 - Obeyed God
 - Listened to God's prophet
 - Feared the Lord! (Reverence is the missing jewel of modern worship)

13  **The missing jewel (Tozer)**


- *I refer to the loss of the concept of majesty from the popular religious mind. The Church has surrendered her once lofty concept of God and has substituted for it one so low, so ignoble, as to be utterly unworthy of thinking, worshipping men.*
- *With our loss of the sense of majesty has come the further loss of religious awe and consciousness of the divine Presence. We have lost our spirit of worship and our ability to withdraw inwardly to meet God in adoring silence. . . . The decline of the knowledge of the holy has brought on our troubles. A rediscovery of the majesty of God will go a long way toward curing them*

14  **A new assurance**

- Haggai 1:13 -- *Then spake Haggai the LORD'S messenger in the LORD'S message unto the people, saying, I am with you, saith the LORD.*
 - Became aware of God's presence
 - Knowing God is there moment-by-moment:
 - encourages you
 - motivates you
 - makes you aware that you are accountable for every thought and action (pay attention, parents)

15  **A new spirit**

- Haggai 1:14 -- *And the LORD stirred up the spirit of Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, governor of Judah, and the spirit of Joshua the son of Josedech, the high priest, and the spirit of all the remnant of the people; and they came and did work in the house of the LORD of hosts, their God . . .*
 - God stirs up the spirit of the priests, the governor, and the people to work together

16  **Poor man's definition of revival**

- Revival happens when:
 - A season of earnest prayer results in
 - sincere labor in God's work
 - which results in an awareness of God's presence
 - and God stirs up the spirit of the people and their leaders to do even greater works for Him.

17  **Summary**

- The people of Haggai's day suffered from the ailment of apathy toward God's work. Selfish preoccupation led to serious problems.
 - The work of God was ignored for seventeen years while the people indulged themselves in luxury. Thank God that He is rich in mercy and long suffering.

18  **Summary (2)**

- God appointed the people to His way.

- How do we fulfill the appointment to God's way?
 - We labor earnestly in prayer, be renewed in strength, and do the work.
 - God gives us assurance of his presence and power in our spirits as we take part in the action of His will.

19  **THE PROMISE**

The Assurance of Providence for God's Work

(Haggai 1:12ff.)

20  **Haggai 1:8,13**

- *Go up to the mountain, and bring wood, and build the house; and I will take pleasure in it, and I will be glorified, saith the LORD.... I am with you saith the LORD.*
- God promises three things when we PRACTICE resourceful prayer and sincere labor:
 - He will be PLEASED with us
 - He will be PRAISED by us
 - He will be PRESENT with us
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