Sermon Notes for May 31, 2015

From This Day On

Haggai 2:10-23

Introduction
Have you ever wondered what it would be like to catch a 40 foot wave and ride it to shore? (Show picture here.)
Life in the Spirit can be like riding a 40 foot wave.
That’s what revival is like on a larger scale.
That is what happened in the time of Haggai, when God’s people obeyed.

I. Revival begins when we turn from sin. Haggai 2:10-13
Repentance means to have a change of heart or mind.
Indirect contact doesn’t make someone or something holy.
What makes a person holy is what happens on the inside. It requires a change of heart.
Sin is contagious. Holiness is not.
Sin is more easily spread than holiness.
If we are to be holy, there is only one way. Turn to Christ and walk with him.
Why is this important?

II. An unclean person cannot please God. Haggai 2:14-17
Because of their disobedience, everything they touched and everything they did was defiled.
Consider how things were for the past 16 years.
- Grain harvest down 50%.
- Wine production down 60%.
- Crops struck with blight, mildew and hail.
Yet they never saw a connection between their heart and the land.
“If I had cherished sin in my heart, the Lord would not have listened; but God has surely listened and has heard my prayer.” Psalm 66:18-19
“Surely the arm of the Lord is not too short to save, nor his ear too dull to hear. But your iniquities have separated you from your God; your sins have hidden his face from you, so that he will not hear.” Isaiah 59:1-2

Disobedience, unconfessed sin and a stubborn refusal to obey short circuit our prayer.

Is sin short-circuiting your relationship with God?

III. The person who walks with God will experience his blessings both now and forevermore. Haggai 2:18-23

What had changed?

For 16 years the temple lay in ruins, but now the people returned to the work of God.

December 18, 520 B.C. – the date of Haggai’s message.

“From this day on I will bless you.”

This is not a prosperity gospel message that says if you walk with God in obedience you will be rich and healthy and wise.

But there is a blessing that comes from obedience in so many ways.

“I tell you the truth,” Jesus replied, “no one who has left home or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or fields for me and the gospel will fail to receive a hundred times as much in this present age: homes, brothers, sisters, mothers, children and fields—and with them, persecutions—and in the age to come, eternal life.” Mark 10:29-30

We can trust God to provide.

God has a word for Zerubbabel that goes far beyond what he would have imagined.

- I will shake the heavens and the earth.
- I will overturn nations and kingdoms.
- I will overthrow armies.
- I will take you – my servant, my signet ring, my chosen – and establish your kingdom forever.

What God promises here is staggering.

Zerubbabel was asked to trust God at a time when he had no throne, no crown, no empire and no royal city. He had nothing but God and his word and that was enough.

Conclusion

Do you see God at work in your life?
Is there anything hindering your walk with him?
What will you do from this day on?