

**New Sermon Series: Living By Priority: A Study of Haggai**

3/23/25 “Not Going As We Want,” Haggai 1:1-15, MEV

**INTRODUCTION** Ever feel as though the harder you work toward your goals, the further they are from you?

Context: Bab. captivity 70 yrs; Cyrus, King of Persia, sent Jews home to rebuild temple; locals opposed; Jews quit; King Darius, Persia: Do it; Haggai & Zechariah encouraged Gov. Zerubbabel & High Priest Joshua to finish; 4-mo in 520 BC Haggai gave 4 msg

**MAIN IDEA: Live a life that is fulfilling, not frustrating.** How? Consider these four things.

**I. First, timing (1-4)**

A. consciously put off doing God’s work? (2) *...because of circumstances, challenges?*

**“The time has not yet come to rebuild the house of the Lord.”**

B. been focusing on our stuff “for a time”: family, home, business, career

**NOTE:** Might we consider “church” at the level of a hobby, and not “do church” until done with our hobby? What would God say?

**Lesson:** If God has given us something to do, we are not to delay.

**ILLUSTRATION:**

**II. Second, our ways (5-11)**

A. sow and work hard on our projects

B. little success, little gain—**frustration**

C. a cycle: work hard, gain little, work harder, gain even less

D. never feel satisfied (6)

**Lesson:** Our frustration might be due to our not putting God first.

**ILLUSTRATION:**

**III. Third, our perception of God (12-13)**

A. He will “understand” our focusing on other tasks

B. we think that He will bless *our* work

C. Do we misunderstand Him?

1. He is to be **feared**: loving, merciful, forgiving  
**AND just & holy, judging sin**

**Prov. 16:6, MEV:** by the fear of the LORD, men depart from evil.

2. will withhold **His blessing**

**Ps. 84:11, MEV:** no good think will He withhold from the one who walks uprightly

3. might **oppose** us

**James 4:6, NLT:** God opposes the proud

4. wants us to know He is with us as we **obey** Him

**Judges 16:20** vs. disciples in **Matthew 28:20** vs. A&S **Acts 5**

**Lesson:** We might not see God as He is, causing Him to oppose us.

**ILLUSTRATION:**

**IV. Finally, making changes (14-15)**

A. respond to His stirring within us

**Stirred up:** open the eyes, to awaken

1. to return to Him

2. to value His work anew

**NOTE:** The stirring might be inner conflict about how we spend our time or our resources. Could be unsettledness. Could be frustrations.

B. reprioritize His work to be first

**Matthew 6:32-33, MEV: 32** (“For the Gentiles seek after all these things.) For your heavenly Father knows that you have need of all these things. **33** But seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be given to you.

1. give Him our best: in time, resources, effort

2. trusting Him to help us with other tasks

**Lesson:** God is a loving father, trying to get us right.

**ILLUSTRATION:**

**CONCLUSION:** there is one clear path: put God first in all things

**ALTAR:** placed other things ahead of God?

### ***Take Time***

Dr. James Hamilton once related an anecdote which illustrates a vital question in the Christian life. A writer recounts it as follows: “A gallant mounted police officer was pursued by an overwhelming force, and his followers were urging him to greater speed, when he discovered that his saddle-girth was becoming loose. He coolly dismounted, repaired the girth by tightening the buckle, and then dashed away. The broken buckle would have left him on the field a prisoner; the wise delay to repair damages sent him on in safety amid the huzzas of his comrades.” The Christian who is in such haste to get about this business in the morning that he neglects his Bible and his season of prayer rides with a broken buckle.