

1/1/23 “Adjust Now,” Haggai 1:1-11,2-22, NLT
(New series *Walking with Jesus in America Today*)

INTRODUCTION:

~520 BC

A time when God’s people in something of a “holding station”... delivered from bondage, building His temple, stopped because of opposition, awaiting God’s promises.

MAIN IDEA: Get ready. How? Here are three things to do.

I. First, prioritize (evaluate our priorities)

A. evaluate what we are doing now (2-4)

1. Am I putting myself first (family, home, work, friends, hobbies, wants) as shown by time, money, effort, focus?
2. Am I focused on serving God & building His kingdom?

B. determine what God wants us to do (8)

Matthew 6:33, NLT: Seek the Kingdom of God above all else, and live righteously, and he will give you everything you need.

1. He wants us serving Him
2. He wants to bless us...when we put Him first.
3. He withholds His blessing when we are off-track. (6)

APPLICATION: Do I feel as though I keep taking one step forward and 2 steps backward in my life?

C. decide what adjustments we need to make (8)

1. make changes to serve the Lord more fully (12)
God encourages us (13)
God gives us enthusiasm (14)
2. or keep going as we’ve been doing

NOTE: If we’re not serving God fully, but we keep trying to do what we have been doing, we grow more frustrated and blame God.

ILLUSTRATION:

TRANSITION: When we put Him first, we may become discouraged by the fruit of our labors not measuring up to what we’d hoped (2:3-5), but God is not discouraged.

II. Second, repent (turn to God from sin)

A. sin corrupts us and all we do (11-14)

1. bad company corrupts good character
2. holiness doesn’t rub off on what is unclean
3. we can corrupt ourselves or be corrupted by others

B. God works against us when we sin (15-17)

C. but when we turn toward Him, He will bless us (18-19)

APPLICATION: Am I walking in holiness and choosing paths that help me or am I choosing paths that corrupt me?

ILLUSTRATION:

III. Finally, anticipate (live for His return) (2:6-8, 20-22)

Δ God wants us to keep in sight His return to stay focused: Jesus’

A. God wants us to keep in sight His return to stay focused. Jesus coming, justice dealt, evil ended

B. God wants us to prepare the way for His return

Matthew 24:14, NLT: And the Good News about the Kingdom will be preached throughout the whole world, so that all nations will hear it; and then the end will come.

1. pray for it...come, Lord Jesus! Save them!
2. watch for it...to be ready at all times, to be encouraged by the signs of the times that can otherwise discourage
3. work toward it...witnessing, living for Him, discipling

ILLUSTRATION:

CONCLUSION:

ALTAR: Commit to becoming ready this year? Make Him first, repent when He shows sin, be mindful of His unexpected return?