**Haggai Get to Work**Intro
Haggai old prophet returning from Babylon
Saw the old Solomon's temple
*‘Does anyone remember this house—this Temple—in its former splendor? Haggai 2:3*Zachariah was a young prophet returning

 A word from God for discouraged people to encourage them to have a closer walk with Jesus.
**high hopes to pessimistic indifference**-6th century  B.C. Nebuchadnezzar attacked Jerusalem and completely destroyed city and temple
- God's people were captured, sent to Babylon, 70 yrs exile
-After  70  years  in  exile, the  Jews  returned
-Arrived to find  city  in  ruins
 (Temple  [WORSHIP] destroyed) (Walls  [PROTECTION]broken  down)
- (FIRED  UP)  They  began  work  first  on  the  temple + (then  stopped  for  15  years!)
-At  this  point, God  raised  up  a  sharp,  no-­nonsense  prophet  (with  the  spirituality  of  Billy Graham  and  the tact  of  Bill  Maher) to  minister  to  these  discouraged,  apathetic  people

- Haggai  delivered  four messages  all  in  a  1½-­year  period  designed  to  motivate  these   discouraged  people  to  rise  up,  put  God  first  and  rebuild  their  spiritual  lives

**Steps for Breaking Free and Moving Forward**

**1. Quit Making Excuses**
 *“This is what the Lord of Heaven’s Armies says: The people are saying, ‘The time has not yet come to rebuild the house of the Lord.’” Haggai 1:2*
These people are stuck
**tomorrow**: the time has not come v 2
putting things off. a procrastination club
**self absorbed** - luxurious houses v. 4
 put God first he will meet your needs
we try to reverse this. Put our needs first then God.
Quit waiting
*Ecclesiastes 11:4 Farmers who wait for perfect weather never plant. If they watch every cloud, they never harvest.
Billy Sunday said "an excuse is a skin of a reason, stuffed with a lie."*

four most discouraging words
Things will never change.
marriage, church, parenting, finances, health

things do change
Jews actually listened, acted and changed
God moved Cyrus to let them return
God moved Cyrus to give them money

They had confused priorities:
Church attendance, serving, giving, witnessing, more time with family, vacations, CLIMBING THE BRIDGE

 **2. Examine Yourself** *This is what the Lord of Heaven’s Armies says: Look at what’s happening to you!* ***Haggai 1:5***

**Look around you.**Are you honoring the Lord
Is there enough evidence that you are a Believer
Are you obeying him? Do you bring pleasure to the Lord.
Chariots of Fire
“God made me fast. And when I run, I feel His pleasure. ”

― Eric Liddell
"fear the Lord" Haggai 1:12

tithe, serve, witness, live justly, love mercy, walk humbly **We give worn out furniture to church, used tea bags**Atheistic Christian **-book Greg

3. Get to Work /Don't Try, Do**
*But now the Lord says: Be strong, Zerubbabel. Be strong, Jeshua son of Jehozadak, the high priest. Be strong, all you people still left in the land. And now get to work, for I am with you, says the Lord of Heaven’s Armies. 5 My Spirit remains among you, just as I promised when you came out of Egypt. So do not be afraid.’ Haggai 2:4-5*
 smart phones are great, but don't work without batteries
People always charging it. We need to be charged by Jesus

**Why Do we all need spiritual strength?**
-ruins ( do we have things that are in ruins?)
-resources are limited (steps were all gold- 8 million $ gone)
-results are slow in coming 70 years in exile
Even though….same God who raised Jesus from the dead

Nothing Great Doesn't Just Happen
work. Lawns, weight, network.
Ushers, compassion team, kids kount, coffee making, cleaning sidewalk, sound, worship,
Oikos
Why are my prayers not answered, (hinder your prayers, wife, sin in the camp…)
“Why are you living in luxurious houses while my house lies in ruins? Haggai 1:3-4

I sent blight and mildew and hail to destroy everything you worked so hard to produce. Even so, you refused to return to me, says the Lord. Haggai 2:17

**4. Don't Be Afraid**
*My Spirit remains among you, just as I promised when you came out of Egypt. So do not be afraid.’ Haggai 2:5* What if your best spiritual days are ahead of you?
Does anyone remember this house—this Temple—in its former splendor? How, in comparison, does it look to you now? It must seem like nothing at all! Haggai 2:3

*6 “For this is what the Lord of Heaven’s Armies says: In just a little while I will again shake the heavens and the earth, the oceans and the dry land. 7 I will shake all the nations, and the treasures of all the nations will be brought to this Temple. I will fill this place with glory, says the Lord of Heaven’s Armies. 8 The silver is mine, and the gold is mine, says the Lord of Heaven’s Armies. 9 The future glory of this Temple will be greater than its past glory, says the Lord of Heaven’s Armies. And in this place I will bring peace. I, the Lord of Heaven’s Armies, have spoken!” Haggai 2:6-9*

*SOLOMON's TEMPLE, Zerubbabel (Herod's expansion) THIRD TEMPLE*

*23 days after Haggai spoke, they started working*

*Super Bowl 2017 greatest comeback
Watch it relaxed, no stress, confident, I knew the outcome*

Everything changes when you know the outcome

As Christians, we know the outcome, so get to work.