

RESET 1 – Reset Priorities (Haggai 1:1-11)

ICEBREAKER: Have you ever had to ‘factory reset’ a phone, computer or other device? What was the problem, and did the reset solve it?

CONTEXT: The Jews returned from exile full of **ENTHUSIASM**, they laid the **FOUNDATIONS** of the temple, then life became **BUSY**, **HOUSES** were finished, but the temple **LAY IN RUINS**.

SUMMARY: There was nothing inherently **WRONG** with building their own **HOMES**. The problem was that they’d stopped building **GOD’S** house because they were **PREOCCUPIED** with building their own. In that sense, the **FAILURE** to build the temple was a **BAROMETER** of the people’s **SPIRITUAL CONDITION**.

The WHY: Their priorities **DRIFTED**. They didn’t stop believing; they simply stopped putting God **FIRST**.

Why do you think the returned exiles left the Temple unfinished for so many years?
The people didn't reject God—they simply said, "The time has not yet come..." (v2). Why is delay often a greater spiritual danger than outright rebellion?
The sermon suggested that the unfinished Temple became a "barometer" of the people's spiritual condition. What do you think that means?

THREE KEY TRUTHS

1. Possible to have good **REASONS**, but wrong **PRIORITIES** (v2)
 - * **Spiritual DRIFT** often begins not with **REBELLION**, but well-intentioned **DELAY**.
 - * God isn’t rebuking **BUSYNESS**; He’s exposing **DISORDERED** lives (Matt 6:33).

Every now & again, we need to press **RESET**.

- * To remind ourselves what **REALLY MATTERS**.
- * To look at life through an **ETERNAL** lens.
- * To see again what **GOD** sees.

How were the Jews’ lives ‘disordered?’ What might be typical signs of ‘disordered lives’ in a modern Christian home or lifestyle?
What do you find to be the most tempting distractions from appropriate kingdom priorities? What is trying to sneak above God into first place?
What is ‘spiritual drift?’ How does it start and where does it lead?

2. **Misplaced PRIORITIES** produce spiritual **FRUSTRATIONS** (v6,9)
 - * The divine irony in Haggai: The harder they **CHASED** fulfilment **APART** from God’s priorities, the more **ELUSIVE** it became.
 - * God wasn’t **AGAINST** their prosperity; He was **AGAINST** prosperity becoming their **PRIORITY**.
 - * The pursuit of worldly success **OUTSIDE** of God **NEVER** satisfies; in fact, it produces deep spiritual **DISSATISFACTION & EMPTINESS**.
 - * God will **LET** you experience that as His way of **BECKONING** you back.

Haggai describes people working hard but never feeling satisfied (1:6). Have you ever experienced a season where life felt like ‘putting wages into a bag with holes?’ What caused that and what did God teach you through it? When and why do you think God sometimes allows frustration or dissatisfaction in our lives?

3. God calls us to **EXAMINE** ourselves honestly
 - * The repeated command, the hinge of the chapter, the rest button is **“CONSIDER YOUR WAYS.”**
 - * God was lovingly **DISRUPTING** a people who’d **DRIFTED** off course; so He called for **REFLECTION, RE-EXAMINATION, RECONSECRATION** (Psalm 139:23-24, Matt 6:33).

Haggai repeatedly says, ‘Consider your ways.’ If God asked you that question today, what area of your life would He most likely draw your attention to? What practical habits help you stop, reflect and reset before spiritual drift becomes deeply rooted?

Our KEY PRIORITIES

1. We want to remain a **WORSHIPPING** church
→ So, we need to provide a place in the short-term where God’s people can continue to **WORSHIP**.
2. We want to remain a **UNITED** church
→ So, we need to provide a safe **SHEEPFOLD** for the **FLOCK**.
3. We want to remain a **MISSIONAL** church
→ So, we need to find a long-term home where we have space to **GROW**, can **STEWARD** our precious resources wisely & continue to press into what God has called us to **DO**, not least of which is to help people **MEET JESUS** for the first time.

Which of those three do you think will require the greatest intentionality in the coming months? Why?
As our church seeks a new home, what are some practical ways each of us can help protect our unity and keep Christ at the centre?

Closing Reflection

Ask everyone to spend a minute quietly considering this question before anyone answers: What has gradually slipped into first place that really belongs in second?

Then invite those who are comfortable to share.

Prayer

Read Matthew 6:33 together.

Spend time praying:

- * thanking God for His kindness in calling us back when we drift;
- * asking Him to reveal any misplaced priorities;
- * praying for wisdom as our church seeks its future home;
- * asking that, above all, Christ would remain at the centre of everything we are and everything we do.