

RESET 3 – Reset Perspective (Haggai 2:1-9)

The STORYLINE

They'd begun to rebuild temple, at last, but many older people remembered SOLOMON'S temple. Compared to the GLORY of the old one, this new version looked PLAIN & UNIMPRESSIVE.

So, the people were left feeling DISCOURAGED, DISAPPOINTED, possibly feeling they'd LET GOD DOWN.

The people compared the new temple with Solomon's & became discouraged.

- * Why do you think comparison affected them so deeply?
- * What reasons does God give for telling them to 'be strong' (v.4-5)?
- * Do you ever look back at the 'good old days' and wish you were still there? Why do you feel like that & what might you be missing out on if you do?

The MESSAGE: BE STRONG (v4)

WHY? Because I am RIGHT HERE WITH YOU

- * My PRESENCE, My PROMISES, My POWER are available to you right now, right here.
- * Don't become FIXATED with the bricks & mortar; the key is MY PRESENCE in your midst.

Why is awareness of His presence key to receiving His strength?
Why might fixation with bricks & mortar drain it?

Reasons we become DISCOURAGED

1. We COMPARE ourselves with others
2. We ROMANTICISE the PAST
3. We MEASURE the WRONG things
4. We FORGET what GOD is already doing behind the scenes

Which of these four do you find most relatable?
Why do you think that one is such a challenge?

Discouragement grows whenever we focus on what WE can SEE, instead of what GOD has SAID.

The RESET: We have to learn to SEE what God SEES.

- * To measure VALUE in God's terms, not human ones.
- * To redefine what SUCCESS looks like.
- * To evaluate life in light of HEAVEN'S PRIORITIES rather than EARTH'S COMPARISONS.

Do you sense you might need a reset in any of those areas? What happens if your perspective gets skewed? How does God correct our perspective?

The builders looked at the temple & saw SMALLER, SIMPLER, LESS IMPRESSIVE, DISAPPOINTING. God looked at the same building & saw ...

- * A PEOPLE who had obeyed Him.
- * A PLACE where His PRESENCE would DWELL.
- * A PROMISE that His GLORY was still to come.

What does this teach us about the difference between God's perspective and ours?
Can you think of a situation where God may have been at work long before you recognised it?

How does that apply to us & our situation?

We live in culture obsessed with metrics, but God asks deeper questions:

- a) Are people BECOMING more LIKE Jesus?
- b) Are lives being TRANSFORMED?
- c) Is there OBEDIENCE?
- d) Is there HOLINESS?
- e) Is Christ being HONOURED?

Which of these questions do you think churches can most easily overlook?
Which one challenges you personally?

Church Transition Questions

- a) What KIND of church is God MAKING us into?
- b) What is the Lord doing to GROW & MATURE us?
- c) What does God want to SET ON FIRE?
- d) What are the greater, bigger, bolder PURPOSES He has in store for us?

As we prepare for a possible move and a new season as a church, what excites you most? What concerns you most?
How can we ensure that our conversations are shaped more by faith than by fear?
What opportunities might God be creating that we cannot yet see?

Personal Reflection Questions

- a) Is my heart ready for whatever God chooses?
- b) Am I holding onto buildings more tightly than God's mission?
- c) Am I willing to embrace change if it helps more people meet Jesus?
- d) Where is God asking me to 'be strong' instead of becoming discouraged?
- e) How can I contribute rather than simply observe?
- f) Am I praying as much as I'm discussing?
- g) Am I bringing faith into conversations or my personal anxiety?
- h) What part is God calling me to play in this next chapter?
- i) If God opens a door, am I prepared to walk through it?
- j) Am I evaluating this change through nostalgic eyes or faith eyes?

Which of those questions challenges you most? Which can you answer with the most confidence? Which one do you suspect others might be struggling with?