

Title: Full House

Text: Haggai 1-2

Target: *"Atheism is not the biggest threat to Christianity, Apathy is"* Tim Keller

- I. **A Requirement for Reflection:** *"Is it a time for you yourselves to dwell in your paneled houses, while this house lies in ruins?"* (Vs. 1:4)
 - A. **Take Inventory:** *"Now, therefore, thus says the LORD of hosts: Consider your ways"* (Vs. 1:5)
 - i. **Misaligned Priorities:** *"sown much, harvested little"* (Vs. 1:6a)
 - ii. **Misguided Pursuits:** *"you eat, never have enough; you drink, but never have your fill. You clothe yourselves, but no one is warm"* (Vs. 1:6b)
 - iii. **Misappropriated Profits:** *"And he who earns wages does so to put them into a bag with holes"* (Vs. 1:6c)
 - B. **Take Initiative:** *"Thus says the LORD of hosts: Consider your ways."* (Vs. 1:7)
 1. **Respond Accordingly:** *"Go up to the hills and bring wood and build the house, that I may take pleasure in it and that I may be glorified, says the LORD."* (Vs. 1:8)
 2. **Reject Apathy:** *"Because of my house that lies in ruins, while each of you busies himself with his own house"* (Vs. 1:9)
- II. **A Revival of Renewal:** *"obeyed the voice of the Lord their God, and the words of Haggai the prophet, as the Lord their God sent him."* (Vs. 1:12)
 - A. **Worshipped Passionately:** *"And the people feared the LORD.* (Vs. 1:12)
 - B. **Believed Courageously:** *"I am with you, declares the LORD* (Vs. 1:13)
 - C. **Surrendered Fully:** *"And the LORD stirred up the spirit..."* (Vs. 1:14)
 - D. **Served Willingly:** *"worked on the house of the LORD of hosts, their God"* (Vs. 1:14)
- III. **Reassure the Remnant** *"Who is left among you who saw this house in its former glory? How do you see it now? Is it not as nothing in your eyes?"* (Vs. 2:3)
 - A. **Do not be judgmental:** *"so that the people could not distinguish the sound of the joyful shout from the people's weeping"* (Ezra 3:13)
 - B. **Do not grow tired:** *"Be strong, all you people of the land, declares the LORD. Work, for I am with you, declares the LORD of hosts.* (Vs. 2:4)
 - C. **Do not be afraid:** *"My Spirit remains in your midst. Fear Not."* (Vs. 2:5)
 - D. **Do not miss out:** *"The latter glory of this house shall be greater than the former, says the Lord of hosts. And in this place I will give peace, declares the Lord of hosts."* (Vs. 2:9)
 - E. **Do not worry:** *"But from this day on I will bless you"* (Vs. 2:19)

Takeaway: When you choose to surrender what God gave you in the first place to steward, our service will never be a sacrifice but our satisfaction.

Discussion Questions: Inventory. This is a word we typically only associate with businesses. Businesses utilize inventory counts to help them with prioritizing product purchases, manufacturing, or to know exactly what they own. Having a good grasp of their inventory allows businesses to prioritize their decision making.

As Haggai points out to the Israelites, they needed to take inventory of their lives and assess their priorities. The LORD speaks through Haggai as he points out their misaligned priorities, misguided pursuits, and misappropriated profits. Yet, just as God always does, He not only calls them to repentance, but also offers an opportunity for restoration. Perhaps God is calling you to assess your priorities and seek Him first so that He might then deliver you and give you the desires of your heart (see Matthew 6:33).

Have you ever taken inventory of anything? Your home? Your retirement? Your media subscriptions? Your walk with the LORD? When was the last time? Is there anything you are holding on to tightly that is preventing you from seeking first the things of God? Is He asking you to release anything such as anger, unforgiveness, etc.?