



May 31, 2015

Kingdom Priorities

Introduction

This week we looked into the book of Haggai to examine Kingdom priorities and the problems caused when those priorities are misplaced.

1. Can you remember how the Israelites demonstrated apathy towards God in the book of Haggai? In what areas of your life are you discovering apathy? How does having apathy hurt those areas of your life?
2. Proverbs 9:10 states that the Fear of the Lord is the beginning of all wisdom. Contrast fear of the Lord with apathy toward the Lord- how do those opposing forces play out in the life of a believer?
3. Jared mentioned that God saves the Israelites out of destruction for a purpose. Jesus also says that he saves us for a purpose. What is that purpose? How do we play out that purpose in our families? Workplaces? Communities? Church?
4. Haggai's message to the Israelites was that they would not receive the favor of the Lord on their endeavors because they had not prioritized the rebuilding of the temple. What are some areas in your life where you haven't prioritized building the Kingdom of God? Do you think life would be more satisfying if you prioritized differently? Explain.
5. Consider the following quote from John Eldridge's book, *Desire*. How do these words stir your heart?

Christianity has come to the point where we believe that there is no higher aspiration for the human soul than to be nice. We are producing a generation of men and women whose greatest virtue is that they don't offend anyone. Then we wonder why there is not more passion for Christ. How can we hunger and thirst after righteousness if we have ceased hungering and thirsting altogether?

As C. S. Lewis said, "We castrate the gelding and bid him be fruitful." The greatest enemy of holiness is not passion; it is apathy. Look at Jesus. He was no milksop. His life was charged with passion. After he drove the crooks from the temple, "his disciples remembered that it is written: 'Zeal for your house will consume me'" (John 2:17). This isn't quite the pictures we have in Sunday school, Jesus with a lamb and a child or two, looking for all the world like Mr. Rogers with a beard. The world's nicest guy. He was something far more powerful. He was holy.

Conclusion

Kingdom Priority means by putting God back onto the throne of your heart.