

Time To Build Again: *Greater Glory*

Application Guide

Read Haggai 2:1-9.

1. The people whose hearts were stirred to get back to work on the temple in chapter one are found drifting into discouragement again, as they compare what they are building with the temple built in Solomon's day. This is the situation God speaks into in verse three.
 - What dangers surface when we compare, what we are building with what other Christian's have built in other places & generations?
 - Is it ever right to compare?
 - How can we learn from the successes of others without becoming discouraged when what we're building 'seems' like nothing in comparison?

2. The people saw a temple which was nothing compared with what is used to be (v3) however God saw a temple which would be filled with greater glory (v9).
 - What does this teach us about having a perspective that is bigger than our current circumstances? Discuss.

3. In verses 4-5 God tells the people to be strong & then assures them of his continuing presence.
 - How important was this for them to hear?
 - What do these verses teach us about the source of true strength? (See also Eph 6:10; 2 Cor. 12:9)
 - Why does God's constant presence with his people make all difference?

4. The reason it was so important for God's people to build his temple was so the world could see visible evidence of his presence in the world. In the NT, while place & buildings still play a part, they are certainly not as central. The NT temple is made of people not bricks. Therefore today God does not restrict his work to a particular place or building. God's commitment to a particular place that we see in this book has been widened to include all places in our day. In the OT God wanted his people to build a house of worship in Jerusalem, in the NT he wants his people to build communities of worship all over the world.
 - What does Eph 2:20-22 & 1 Pet 2:5 teach us about the NT temple?
 - *"When we don't prioritise building God's spiritual temple we rob our community of the visible evidence of the reality of God!"* Do you think this is a fair statement?
 - What does building God's temple look like in Sligo today? Discuss.