

Time To Build Again: No More Excuses

Life Group Discussion Guide

Read chapter one of Haggai.

1. The main excuse the people Haggai is addressing made for not getting on with building the temple was; ***“the time has not yet come to rebuild the house of the LORD.”*** This excuse grew out of discouragement because of opposition they had received.
 - What kind of excuses might Christian’s make for not getting on with building the kingdom of God today?
 - What is the difference between an excuse & a valid reason? Give examples.
 - What do you make of Benjamin Franklin words; *“I never knew a man who was good at making excuses who was good at anything else.”* Discuss.
2. On Sunday it was said that; *“The reasons to keep going in the Christian life always outweigh the reasons for giving up.”* Do you agree with this statement? If so give some reasons for why you think it is true.
3. When the people stopped building God’s house their priority drifted to building houses for themselves, signifying how discouragement caused a shift in their priorities. In order to get their attention & re-align their priorities God disciplined his people by withholding blessing from them (1:9-11.)
 - What kind of things might Christian’s build for themselves today when their priorities are in the wrong order?
 - What role do you think God’s discipline plays in helping keep our priorities right today? What does Hebrews 12:3-12 teach us in regard to this?
4. Deep down these people had a heart for God’s work & they also had a healthy fear of God (1:12). This healthy fear made them wise enough to respond in the right way, but it would take more than fear to fully motivate them to finish the temple.
 - What is the difference between a healthy fear & an unhealthy fear of God? Discuss.
 - What was it in verses 13-15 that really stirred the hearts of the people to begin work on God’s house again?