

Series: Haggai: A Minor Prophet with a BIG Message!

Sermon: Unrealistic Expectations

Passage: Haggai 2:10-19

Illustration:

Need: It's not possible for God's people to pursue disobedience and avoid consequences, and those consequences often last much longer than we expect them to or think they should.

I. A Mosaic Illustration (2:10-13)

- Can holiness be transferred? NO. (Lev. 4; Lev. 6:24-30)
- Can defilement be transferred? YES & multiplied. (Lev. 22:4-6)
- This line of questions seems to be addressing their past disobedience while continuing to go through the sacrificial motions & their current obedience but with no changes in their consequences.

II. An Honest Evaluation (2:14-19a)

- Disobedience brought God's hand instead of His blessing.
- Disobedience made their worship unclean. **1 Sam. 15:22**; Prov. 21:3; Jer. 7:21-29
- Disobedience brought consequences that affected every aspect of life (trickle-down effect).
- Consequences for disobedience were hard and lasted a lot longer than expected.
- Choosing to obey didn't stop the consequences from running its course.
- These same things are true for Christians today.

III. A Blessing Reinstated (2:19b)

- As a result of their obedience God promised to bless them from that day on.
- **1:13** "I am with you." **2:4** "I am with you." **2:5** "My Spirit remains in your midst."
- He would bless them...until they disobeyed again. But this blessing seems related to the following message in verses 20-23 (we'll talk about this next week).

IV. Principles of Hope:

- Jesus is the holy sacrifice that makes those He redeems righteous!
- In Jesus, even the consequences for our sin can be used by Him for His glory!
- Obedience is possible because of and through the Holy Spirit!
- When we pursue disobedience, the death and resurrection of Christ provides for our restoration through confession & repentance.
- Keeping sin confessed is key to the pursuit of obedience!