

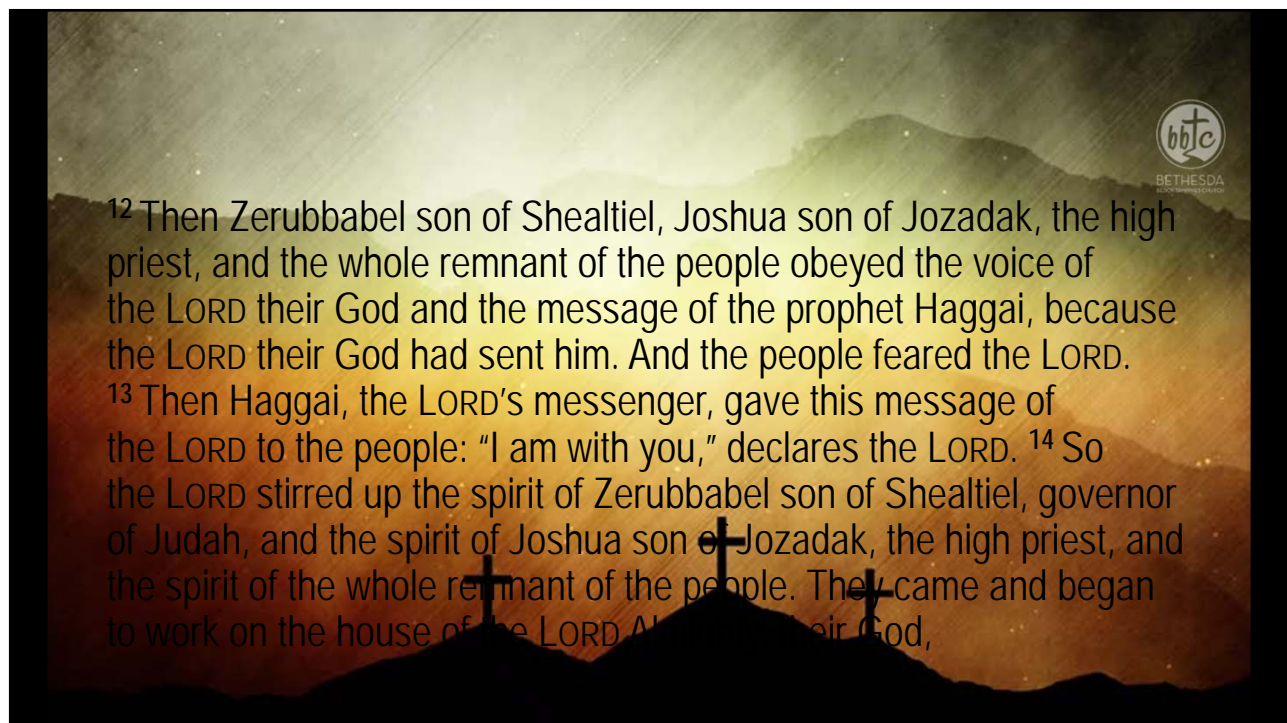
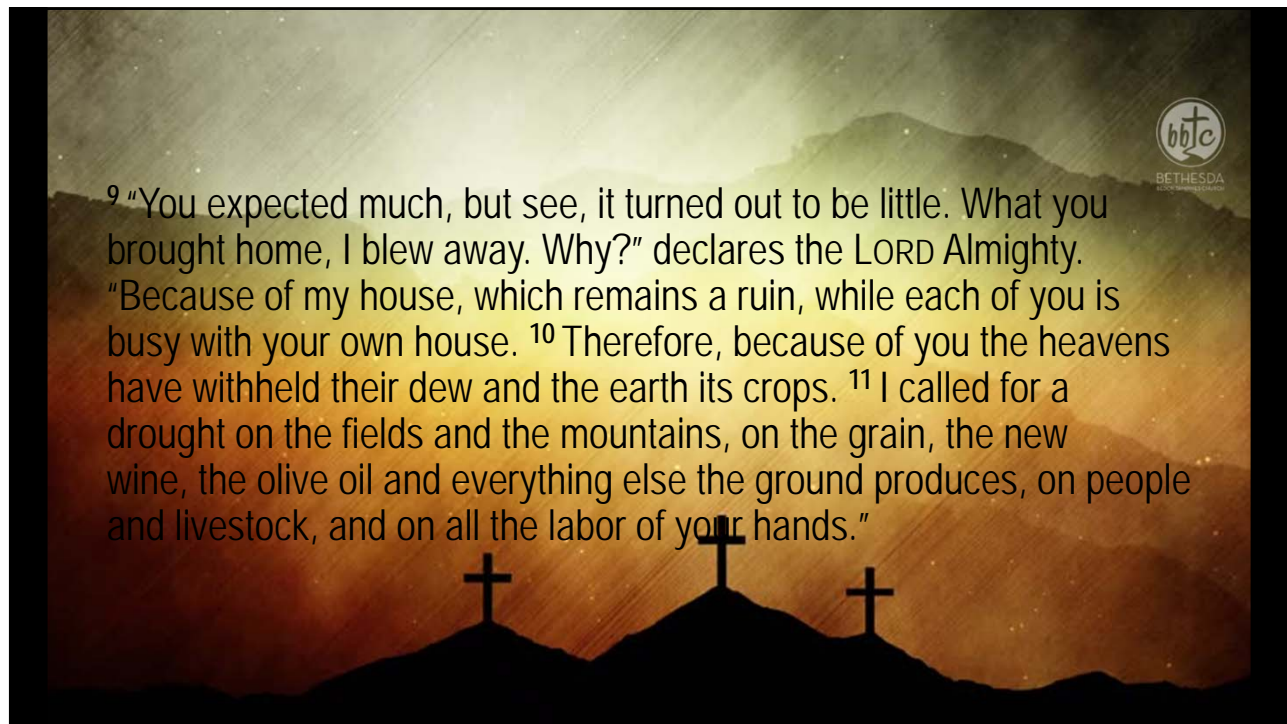


1. Putting First Things First

Haggai 1:1-14

¹ In the second year of King Darius, on the first day of the sixth month, the word of the LORD came through the prophet Haggai to Zerubbabel son of Shealtiel, governor of Judah, and to Joshua son of Jozadak, the high priest: ² This is what the LORD Almighty says: "These people say, 'The time has not yet come to rebuild the LORD's house.'" ³ Then the word of the LORD came through the prophet Haggai: ⁴ "Is it a time for you yourselves to be living in your paneled houses, while this house remains a ruin?"

⁵ Now this is what the LORD Almighty says: "Give careful thought to your ways. ⁶ You have planted much, but harvested little. You eat, but never have enough. You drink, but never have your fill. You put on clothes, but are not warm. You earn wages, only to put them in a purse with holes in it." ⁷ This is what the LORD Almighty says: "Give careful thought to your ways. ⁸ Go up into the mountains and bring down timber and build my house, so that I may take pleasure in it and be honored," says the LORD.





1. Putting First Things First

Beware Dangers of:

- Excuses
- Tending to self first
- Comfort with status quo



1. Putting First Things First

Be aware of possible consequences:

- Futility
- Unsatisfaction
- Missing God's blessings

2. Wasting and Pleasing

Matthew 26:6-13

⁶ And when Jesus was in Bethany at the house of Simon the leper, ⁷ a woman came to Him having an alabaster flask of very costly fragrant oil, and she poured *it* on His head as He sat *at the table*. ⁸ But when His disciples saw *it*, they were indignant, saying, "Why this waste? ⁹ For this fragrant oil might have been sold for much and given to *the poor*." ¹⁰ But when Jesus was aware of *it*, He said to them, "Why do you trouble the woman? For she has done a good work for Me.



2. Wasting and Pleasing

Matthew 26:6-13

¹¹ For you have the poor with you always, but Me you do not have always. ¹² For in pouring this fragrant oil on My body, she did *it* for My burial. ¹³ Assuredly, I say to you, wherever this gospel is preached in the whole world, what this woman has done will also be told as a memorial to her."



2. Wasting and Pleasing

- Mary brought a lavish, extravagant gift – fit for a king
- An alabaster vial of pure nard, equivalent to a year's pay
- She used it to anoint the Lord



2. Wasting and Pleasing

- The Disciples were indignant.
- Why this waste?
- She has done a good deed.



3. Be Thou My Vision

Be Thou my vision
O Lord of my heart
Naught be all else to me
Save that Thou art
Thou my best thought
By day or by night
Waking or sleeping
Thy presence my light

Be Thou my wisdom
And Thou my true word
I ever with Thee
And Thou with me Lord
Thou my great Father
And I Thy true son
Thou in me dwelling
And I with Thee one



3. Be Thou My Vision

Riches I need not
Nor man's empty praise
Thou mine inheritance now and always
Thou and Thou only first in my heart
High King of heaven
My treasure Thou art

High King of heaven
My victory won
May I reach heaven's joy
Bright heaven sun!
Heart of my own heart
Whatever befall
Still be my vision
O ruler of all





Conclusion

Haggai 1:5

⁵ Now this is what the Lord Almighty says: "Give careful thought to your ways."

Haggai 1:7

⁷ This is what the Lord Almighty says: "Give careful thought to your ways."



Conclusion

Why give careful thought?

- Restored consciousness of God's presence
- Renewed experience of His power
- It pleases the Lord when we put Him first

Haggai 1:13

Haggai 1:14

Matthew 26:10



Conclusion

Be careful not to waste our lives!



Conclusion

We waste by having an incorrect estimate of His worth.

Matthew 26:13

13 Assuredly, I say to you, wherever this gospel is preached in the whole world, what this woman has done will also be told as a memorial to her."

