

The Only Way to Satisfy Your Hunger

Text: Haggai 1:2–8

Supporting Texts: Matthew 6:33; James 4:17; Hebrews 11:6

Bottom Line:

When Jesus is at the center, everything else finds its proper place.

Key Idea:

God invites His people to consider their ways because drift is easy, dissatisfaction is real, and His presence is better than self-built security. The question is where are our habits taking us?

READ

Read **Haggai 1:2–8** aloud.

God's people had returned from exile and started rebuilding the temple, but the work stalled for years. They were living in paneled houses while the Lord's house remained in ruins. Through Haggai, God names their misplaced priorities and invites them to "consider your ways." Their lives were full, but not fruitful.

DISCUSS

1. Where do you see the difference between being busy and being fruitful in your life right now?
2. Haggai's audience did not reject God outright. They drifted. Why is spiritual drift often more dangerous than open rebellion?
3. What are some phrases we use to delay obedience?
"When life slows down..." "When the kids are older..." "After this season..."
"Once we pay this off..."
4. The sermon says, "When we prioritize self-satisfaction, we are never satisfied." Where do you see that in our culture? Where do you see it in yourself?
5. What would it mean for Jesus to be at the center of your life rather than merely at the top of your list?

COME AND SEE

God Calls Us to Consider

Biblically, to consider is to give sustained attention to something until we understand it. God is not asking His people for a quick glance at their schedules. He is asking them to examine the direction of their lives.

See also: **Psalm 139:23–24; Lamentations 3:40; 2 Corinthians 13:5**

Drift Reveals Our Priorities

The people had not stopped believing in God. They had simply reorganized their lives around themselves. Haggai exposes how easily God's people can become consumed with personal comfort while God's purposes remain neglected.

See also: **Matthew 6:19–24; Luke 12:15–21; Revelation 2:4–5**

Jesus Belongs at the Center

Jesus is not one bucket among many. He is the center around which everything else orbits. Work, money, marriage, parenting, rest, service, and time all become discipleship when they are organized around Him.

See also: **Matthew 6:33; Colossians 1:15–18; Romans 12:1–2**

God Promises His Presence

God does not only say, "Get to work." He says, "I am with you." The reward of reordered priorities is not simply productivity. It is deeper life with God.

See also: **Exodus 33:14–15; John 15:4–5; Hebrews 11:6**

FOLLOW ME

1. Consider Your Priorities

What we prioritize is often revealed more by our habits than by our intentions.

- If someone studied your calendar, spending, energy, attention, and conversations, what would they conclude matters most to you?
 - Where do your stated priorities and actual rhythms not line up?
 - What good thing has become too central in your life?
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2. Name the Drift

Drift usually happens slowly, through reasonable delays and crowded seasons.

- Where have you said, "Not now," to something God has clearly been inviting you into?
 - What habit has quietly taken over more of your life than you intended?
 - What spiritual practice, relationship, act of service, or act of obedience has been waiting for "the right time"?
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3. Move Jesus from the List to the Center

Many of us imagine life as separate buckets: career, marriage, kids, health, money, church, Jesus. But Jesus does not merely want to be first on a list. He wants to be the center that gives shape to everything.

- How would Jesus live your work life if He were you?
- How would Jesus handle your calendar, your money, your home, your conflict, your parenting, your rest?
- What would change this week if one ordinary area of life became consciously submitted to Him?

Reflect:

Discipleship is learning to live your actual life the way Jesus would live it if He were you.

4. Trust the Promise of God's Presence

God's call to reorder our lives can feel threatening because we fear what we may lose. But God's promise is, "I am with you."

- What makes it scary to put Jesus at the center?
 - Where are you afraid that obedience will leave you alone, deprived, or behind?
 - How does God's presence change the way you think about sacrifice?
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GO AND BE

This week, do a simple **Life Audit**.

Choose one area to consider:

- your calendar, your marriage, your parenting, your work, your money, your spiritual practices, your service and...

Ask three questions:

1. What is this area currently orbiting around?

Comfort, fear, success, pressure, comparison, control, or Jesus?

2. What is a 1% shift I can make?

3. What will I do in the next 24 hours?

Write it down. Put it on the calendar. Tell someone.

CLOSING PRAYER