

## Putting wages into bags with holes in them

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### Introduction

1. Haggai 1:2-6
2. The Jews were to build the temple upon their return for Babylonian captivity.
3. They were falling down in this responsibility.
4. They were giving excuses as for not rebuilding the temple.
5. Haggai is sent by God to stir them to movement on the house of God.
6. In his first message to these slothful Jews he charges: verse 6
  1. Ye have sown much and bring in little
  2. Ye eat, but have not enough
  3. Ye drink, but ye are not filled with drink
  4. Ye clothe you, but there is none warm.
7. Then he states why they were in such a condition: "he that earth wages earth wages to put in into wages with holes."
8. Could this happen to us? could we be spinning our wheels? Could we be the hurrier I go the behinder I get?
9. To profit from the Jews stupidity we should inquire how and wherein they put their wages; that is their interest, time and substance into bags which have holes in them.

### II Discussion

1. What was the pronounced because of their doings
  1. The building of the temple was imperative - it was the visible token of the Lord's presence with them!
  2. While the temple was in ruins the covenant of God was suspended. No worship no communication from God. They thought no responsibility!
  3. The temple afforded the opportunity of the Jews to show their zeal and fidelity toward God; as long as the temple lay desolate the Jews had no means of zeal for God!
  4. They made excuses why they could not build.
    1. They were small in number
    2. They had just returned
    3. We are persecuted or harassed on every side
    4. They needed to build homes to stay in Verses 4, 9
      1. They lived in scaled houses, paneled with fine high grade wood
      2. It was roofed with expensive woods too
      3. Houses with door posts were elaborately adorned with emblems and devices
      4. David's attitude toward the house of God 2 Samuel 7:2
    5. They were poor
    6. The 70 years were not up.
2. There was a remedy for their plight if they wanted it. Verses 7-8
  1. They were told what to do verse 8
  2. If they would do what God said to do then God would provide the rest. Matthew 6:33
  3. They did and were blessed verse 12, 14
  4. Notice how many of them worked verse 14
  5. Notice they all came, none had to be coerced
  6. Notice they did the work and showed enthusiasm
  7. Notice their perseverance, they finished the work Ezra 5:11; Zechariah 4:7,9
3. Are we doing the same as those Jews? are we putting our interest, time, and substance into bags with holes in them?
  1. We are if we use the wrong standard in measuring the church 2 Corinthians 10:13
    1. Do we measure the church as a social club?
    2. Do we measure the church by the contributions?
    3. Do we measure the church by the raising numbers?

4. Do we measure the church by the building?
5. Do we measure the church by always being positive and never negative?
6. Do we measure the church by denominations?
7. Do we measure the church by not being critical of anyone?
8. Do we measure the church by the people in it: politicians, musicians, historians?
2. What are the dreams for our children?
  1. Christian education?
  2. Marrying a Christian?
  3. Working as a preacher, elder or a daughter or wife of one of these?
  4. We might not want this for we know how we treat them and we don't want our children being treated like this!
4. Our remedy is the same today as it was back then.
  1. Are we willing to do what God said to do, there is work on every hand
  2. Are we all willing to work?
  3. Are we doing the Lord's work with enthusiasm?
  4. Are we persevering in the Lord's work no matter who is against us?

### III Conclusion

1. If you are putting your wages into bags with holes, can you not see how foolish this is?
2. Why not put your wages into a place of safe keeping Matthew 6:19-21
3. You can by obeying God today!

Sources: Sermon from Rex Tuner Sr. Pulpit commentary, Matthew Henry commentary