

## Stewardship University Part 3: Living a Life of Luxury

Haggai 1:4-11

### Summary

This sermon will help us examine the results of the way we are currently living our lives. We will ask ourselves the basic question: *Whom or what are we living for?* We will walk away from this sermon with the basic understanding of our true purpose for living and how we can accomplish this feat in our modern day culture.

#### Two Key Phrases:

“The Lord Almighty” – 14x in Haggai

“Give careful thought to” – 5x in Haggai

#### Central Question – *Whom or what are we living for?*

- Seek God First (Matthew 6:33, Exodus 20:3)

#### Central Theme – *Give careful thought to your ways*

- Life is not merely about living for the moment. (Luke 12:33-34)

#### Four Myths to Living the Life of Luxury

- These four myths will help us understand the results of living a life in pursuit of fleeting happiness that is only brought about by material possessions. We must learn to pursue the eternal riches that will not fade away.

#### Myth #1 – More work = more money (v. 6, 10-11)

- **Mt. 6:24** – “No one can serve two masters. Either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and Money.”
- You are overworked & have harvested little.
- **Key Point:** The first myth leads us to believe that the more we work then the more money we will have. This statement carries with it the unspoken but common claim that the more money that you have the happier you become. The fact is that you must choose what is going to be the consuming force in your life, will it be pursuing money or will be honoring God.
  - The Israelites found themselves in constant pursuit of taking care of their own welfare and they ignored the requests of God. This led to negative results.

#### Myth #2 – More Quantity = More Happiness (v. 6, 10-11)

- **Hebrews 13:5** – Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have, because God has said, “Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you.”
- More Food & Drink – You are never satisfied – Food and drink

- More Materials – You are never content – Clothes
- More Money – Your money is already spent before you get it.
- **Key Point:** The second myth carries on where the first myth leaves off. The second directly states that the more you have then the happier you will be. It is amazing that people continue, year after year, decade after decade, generation after generation, to fall victim to this lie even though they have seen what the accumulation of more does to friends, family members, and relatives.
  - **True happiness is not found in accumulation of more but in the distribution of more.** Why accumulate what you can't take with you? We see the Israelites get off track and focus on accumulation and neglect the greater things of life that truly bring happiness, the pursuit of God and His will. *Be content with what you have.*

### **Myth #3** – God helps those who help themselves (v. 9)

- **Luke 6:38 (Message)** – Give away your life; you'll find life given back, but not merely given back—given back with bonus and blessing. Giving, not getting, is the way. Generosity begets generosity."
- **Key Point:** People want to believe that they are self-made men and women but this is impossible. God is the owner of all things, even your very life. There is no such thing as a self-made man. If you truly want to be rich in this life then you will master the basic principle found in Luke 6:38. God's theology is a little different the human theology.

### **Myth #4** – Looking out for #1 = Success (v. 12-15)

- **Psalm 24:1** –“The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it.”
- **1 Corinthians 6:19-20** – “You are not your own; you were bought at a price.”
- **Deuteronomy 8:18** – “Remember the Lord your God, for it is he who gives you the ability to produce wealth.”
- You are selfish
- Until we learn to place God and His kingdom as the first priority in our lives then we will never be content with where we are at in our lives. We will continually be a slave to the lender and money will always have mastery over us.
- **Key Point:** The fourth myth wants us to by into that self-made man image at an even deeper level. It tells us that you cannot trust anyone and the only way that you can achieve true success is by looking out for number one. The truth is that the only way you will ever achieve success is if God grants it to you. This is not an opinion this is a fact from Scripture.
  - **We must learn to overcome our selfish nature and humble ourselves in order to live the life of luxury.** The Israelites finally put their ambitions aside and because of that they were blessed to be in the presence of God but they also had their spirit stirred in an awesome way.
  - Gaining the right perspective and pursuing God's plan will always lead our spirit to be stirred by God himself. He promises that when we are pursuing His will, He is always with us.

### Questions to Consider

1. What is the #1 myth I have bought into in my life? Why?
2. How does my belief in this myth affect my walk with God?
3. What am I really investing my life into? Should I make some changes? If so, what changes need to come about?

### Investment Tip #3

The investment tip for this week is to continue to evaluate your budget and make it a priority to set up an emergency fund of a thousand dollars for your family. Do not stop tithing to the Lord to set up your emergency fund. Continue to focus on the Lord and focus on getting out of debt.

### Memory Verse

**Haggai 1:5** – Now this is what the LORD Almighty says: “Give careful thought to your ways.



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