

The STORY - Week Nineteen

February 19, 2017

First Things First

HAGGAI 1:2-8, 12-15

“Thy Kingdom come”—this is not the prayer of the pious soul of the individual who wants to flee the world, nor is it the prayer of the utopian and fanatic, the stubborn world reformer. Rather, this is the prayer only of the church-community of children of the Earth... who persevere together in the midst of the world, in its depths, in the daily life and subjugation of the world - Dietrich Bonhoeffer (1932).

Christians have come to understand the Temple through the redeeming work of Christ. We are called to work continually toward the upbuilding of the spiritual edifice of the church. Indeed, the congregation of believers is knit together with “Christ Jesus Himself as the Cornerstone. In Him the whole structure is joined together and grows into a holy temple in the Lord, in Whom you also are built together spiritually into a dwelling place for God”- Eph. 2:20-22 - Carolyn Sharp (2009)

“If we put first things first, we get the second things thrown in; but if we put second things first, we lose both the first AND the second things” - C. S. Lewis (1951).

God allows seasons of trial and suffering to call His people to their purpose - Max Lucado (2011).

Then Haggai, the LORD’s messenger, gave the people this message from the LORD: “I am with you, says the LORD!”
Haggai 1:13

Next week: *Esther, Queen of Courage; Alyssa Fulling sharing about summer 2016 and 2017—in Honduras.*

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THE STORY

FINDING YOUR STORY IN GOD'S STORY

Keep God's priorities first.

God dwells among His people.

Sin separates us from relationship with God.

Blood sacrifice restores access to God's presence.

The Temple depicted God dwelling with His people.

Cyrus released exiles to build their temple.

Early focus gave way to misplaced priorities.

Difficult times can help us refocus our priorities.

What distraction pulls you from God's purpose?

Is the LORD your first love?

Are you tender to the voice and priorities of God?

Matthew 6:33 Seek first the kingdom of God...

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