***obedient ownerSHIP***

**Stewardship Worship Series – Week 2**

***Dare to Compare: Feast or Famine***

**Based on the book: *Haggai & Friends: Sixty-six Perspectives on Stewardship***

**By Patrick McLaughlin**

|  |
| --- |
| **WORSHIP SERVICE OUTLINE**S  Each worship outline contains all elements needed for your worship service. The order of each service presented is only a *suggestion*. No doubt changes will be needed to accommodate the flow and worship style of your corps. The outlines are flexible and allow opportunities to “cut and paste” as needed. If you are blessed with instrumental or vocal music resources, you may find there is more structured material here than needed. |

***Feast or Famine***

**Call to Worship:**

Chapter 2 of Haggai begins with the Jewish exiles being in the midst of The Feast of Tabernacles. This was a commemorative feast; in memory of God bringing them out of Egypt. This was the seventh day of the feast; the very next day they were to celebrate the Sabbath.

As fun as it sounds, they had to be depressed as they reflected upon God’s deliverance of Israel from the hand of Pharaoh all those years ago compared to the utter despair that was their lot in life at the moment. They were hungry, cold, discouraged, and flat broke. They were celebrating the feast but preparing to go back to the reality of their current spiritual, economic, and cultural famine.

This is the world Haggai is sent to prophesy to. How could it get any worse? His task was to get them out of the famine mentality. His call was one of faithfulness and fruitfulness. He had stirred them up and they were ready to get after it.

(*Haggai & Friends*, pp. 77-78)

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **SB#47 – O God, our help in ages past**  **HC#118 (with Chorus)** | TB-113 – St. Ann  HC-118 | HTD5-T18 (4 vs.)  HCD10-T18 |
| **Additional Optional Songs** | | |
| **SB#253 – For all the saints who from their labors rest** | TB-461 – Sine Nomine | HTD12-T14 (4 vs.) |
| **HC#183 – My Life Is in You** | HC-183 | HCD17-T13 |
| **HC#189 – Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing**  **SB#830** | HC-189  TB-374 – Nettleton | HCD17-T19 |
| **HC#191 – Be Thou My Vision**  **SB#573** | HC-191  TB-831 – Slane | HCD18-T11 |
| **HC#221 – Servants of God**  **SB#97** | HC-221  TB-479 – Hanover | HCD21-T11  HTD4-T4 (3 vs.) |
| **HC#231 – Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah**  **SB#27** | HC-231  TB-399 – Cwm Rhondda | HCD22-T11  HTD3-T7 (4 vs.) |
| **HC#246 – 10,000 Reasons (Bless the Lord)** | HC-246 | HCD23-T16 |

***I Will Give You Peace***

**Scripture Alive!** (Haggai 2:1-9, The Voice)

**Leader:** 1On the 21st day of the 7th month, the prophet Haggai gave *another* message from the Eternal.

**Eternal One:** 2Ask Zerubbabel (Judah’s governor), Joshua (the high priest), and all those who returned *from exile,* 3“Are any of you still living who saw how glorious My *first* house was before *it was destroyed more than 60 years ago*? How does this *current one* look to you now? In comparison *to the first,* does this one look like nothing? *Of course it does.*

4“But *don’t be discouraged*. Be strong, Zerubbabel. Be strong, Joshua. Be strong, all you who *once again* live in the land. Keep working *on it*. For I, the Eternal, Commander of *heavenly* armies, am with you! 5Regarding the covenant I made with you when your *ancestors* came out of Egypt, My Spirit remains with you, living among you. Do not be afraid.

6“Yet once more I will shake not only the earth, but also the heavens,the sea, and the land. 7I will rattle all the nations, and all that is valuable in *the eyes of* the world will be *willingly* brought to My house. I will see to it that it is filled *to the brim* with My glory.

8“*You see, all* the silver and *all* the gold *in this world already* belong to Me. 9*You will stand by and watch as* the magnificence of this new house will eclipse the magnificence of My first house. And in this *new* house, I will give *you* peace.”

**Leader:** So says the Eternal, Commander of *heavenly* armies.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **SB#704 – Give me a holy life** | TB-173 – Nuttall | HTD9-T13 (3 vs.) |
| **Additional Optional Songs** | | |
| **SB#255 – I’m set apart for Jesus** | TB-213 – Aurelia | HTD3-T3 (3 vs.) |
| **SB#496 – I want a principle within** | TB-70 – Fewster | HTD3-T13 (4 vs.) |
| **SB#627 – There is a holy hill of God** | TB-89 – Lead me to Calvary | HTD9-T8 (4 vs.) |
| **SB#721 – Lord Jesus, I long to be perfectly whole** | TB-505 – Lord Jesus, I long | No CD |
| **SB#666 – O for a humbler walk with God** | TB-5 – Beethoven | HTD6-T4 (3 vs.) |
| **SB#570 – And is it so? A gift from me** | TB-138 – Slater | HTD6-T17 (4 vs.) |
| **SB#579 – Come, Savior Jesus, from above** | TB-10 – Deep Harmony | HTD5-T6 (4 vs.) |
| **SB#630 – We have not known Thee as we ought** | TB-442 – Melita | HTD9-T11 (4 vs.) |

**Prayers for Holiness [Silent Prayers]**

**Pastoral Prayer**

[Each week there is a section in the service called *Obedient Ownership*. The prophet Haggai and all of his Old and New Testament ‘friends’ (authors of the books of the Bible) will help us understand stewardship as a lifetime priority. From Genesis to Revelation there are hundreds of verses on stewardship. This responsive reading highlights many of those verses with an introduction to the book, a stewardship verse from that book and the stewardship principle contained in the book. See Ezra below as an example. This reading could also be done during the offertory as the offering is being taken.]

**Responsive Reading: *Obedient Ownership***

**(Old Testament Record)**

**Reader 1:** Ezra, Haggai, and Zechariah all address the return of Israel and Judah from exile and the task of rebuilding the temple that Solomon built and the Babylonians destroyed.

**All:** *68When they arrived at the Temple of the Lord in Jerusalem, some of the family leaders made voluntary offerings toward the rebuilding of God’s Temple on its original site, 69and each leader gave as much as he could.*

(Ezra 2:68-69, NLT)

**Reader 2:** The Ezra stewardship principle:It is not about equal giving but equal sacrifice. Give according to your means.

**Reader 1:** The psalmists were very practical stewards who penned much about God’s goodness, his greatness, and his ownership of the universe and everything in it.

**All:** *5Good comes to those who lend money generously  
    and conduct their business fairly.  
 6Such people will not be overcome by evil.  
     Those who are righteous will be long remembered.  
 7They do not fear bad news;  
     they confidently trust the Lord to care for them.*

(Psalm 112:5-7, NLT)

**Reader 2:** The Psalms stewardship principle:Generous stewards will not be overcome by evil schemes but will be blessed as they practice obedient ownership.

**Reader 1:** God is a logical being. In Proverbs the teacher points out many scenarios and gives sound advice on how to live a prudent life so that good consequences may result.

**All:** *18I have riches and honor, as well as enduring wealth and justice. 19My gifts are better than gold, even the purest gold, my wages better than sterling silver! 21Those who love me inherit wealth. I will fill their treasuries.*

(Proverbs 8:18-19, 21, NLT)

**Reader 2:** The Proverbs stewardship principle:Obedient Owners are hard workers and God prospers them with a satisfied life.

**Reader 1:** Ecclesiastes is often considered to have a rather gloomy message; but when you consider these you realize that using time wisely—whether working or resting, earning or giving—make life meaningful. This is our call as Obedient Owners.

**All:** *1For everything there is a season,  
     a time for every activity under heaven.  
 2A time to be born and a time to die.  
     A time to plant and a time to harvest.  
 3A time to kill and a time to heal.  
     A time to tear down and a time to build up.  
 4A time to cry and a time to laugh.  
     A time to grieve and a time to dance.*

(Ecclesiastes 3:1-4, NLT)

**Reader 2:** The Ecclesiastes stewardship principle:Stewards use their time wisely.

**Reader 1:** Zechariah speaks of the return of the captives from Babylon and of the need to rebuild the temple.With the many promises of judgment and restoration is an admonition he shared with the children of Israel:

**All:** *9“This is what the Lord of Heaven’s Armies says: Judge fairly, and show mercy and kindness to one another. 10Do not oppress widows, orphans, foreigners, and the poor. And do not scheme against each other.*

(Zechariah 7:9-10, NLT)

**Reader 2:** Do you want a stewardship plan for your life? It’s laid out for you in the verse above: show kindness and mercy, do nothing to harm each other, become a servant, and be fair and honest in every experience of life. In doing so, you will model God’s love for this world. That’s obedient ownership!

(*Haggai & Friends*, pp. 123-124, 127-129, 142-143)

***Giving Stories***

**Testimonies/Stewardship Testimony**

**Tithes and Offering**

|  |
| --- |
| **Drama – The New Pizza** |

**Message – Feast or Famine**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **SB#623 – Take my life and let it be** | TB-246 – Consecration Hymn | HTD12-T3 (3 vs. – combine 2 verses) |
| **Additional Optional Songs** | | |
| **HC#170 – There Is None Like You** | HC-170 | HCD15-T20 |
| **HC#117 – Draw Me Close** | HC-117 | HCD10-T17 |
| **HC#89 – Knowing You**  **SB#565** | HC-89  TB-725 – same | HCD7-T19 |
| **HC#156 – Enter In** | HC-156 | HCD14-T16 |
| **HC#160 – I Surrender** | HC-160 | HCD14-T20 |
| **HC#167 – I’m in His Hands**  **SB#848 (Chorus)** | HC-167  TB-659 – His way is best | HCD15-T17 |
| **HC#168 – Offering** | HC-168 | HCD15-T18 |
| **HC#207 – Grace Alone**  **SB#699** | HC-207  TB-640 – same | HCD19-T17 |
| **HC#208 – Faithful God**  **SB#360** | HC-208  TB-607 – same | HCD19-T18 |
| **HC#245 – Known to You** | HC-245 | HCD23-T15 |
| **HC#247 – Still, My Soul, Be Still** | HC-247 | HCD23-T17 |
| **HC#249 – Near to the Heart of God** | HC-249 | HCD23-T19 |
| **SB#208 – When I survey the wondrous cross** | Old TB-13 – Boston  TB-875 – The Wonderful Cross  HC-94 | HTD1-T4 (4 vs.)  HCD8-T14 |
| **SB#588 – I bring to Thee my heart to fill** | TB-414 – Christ is all | HTD3-T6 (3 vs.) |
| **SB#636 – All to Jesus I surrender** | TB-333 – I surrender all | HTD5-T9 (3 vs.) |
| **SB#750 – Father, I know that all my life** | TB-111 – Spohr | HTD10-T14 (3 vs.) |
| **SB#613 – O Jesus, I have promised** | TB-213 – Aurelia | HTD3-T3 (3 vs.) |
| **SB#646 – How can I better serve Thee, Lord** | TB-15 – Here at the cross | HTD4-T6 (3 vs.) |

**Benediction:**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **HC#149 – In Christ Alone**  **SB#861** | HC-149  TB-132 – same | HCD13-T19 |
| **Additional Optional Songs** | | |
| **HC#150 – The Lord Bless Thee and Keep Thee** | HC-150 | HCD13-T20 |
| **HC#147 – Thine Is the Kingdom** | HC-147 | HCD13-T17 |
| **HC#109 – Total Praise** | HC-109 | HCD9-T19 |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Week #2** | |
| **DRAMA**  **The New Pizza**  **By Jacob Wise**  © Copyright 2019 by Bill Booth Theater Company. All rights reserved. Used by permission. | |
| **Topic:** | New vs. Old |
| **Scripture:** | Haggai 2:1-9 |
| **Synopsis:** | A wife surprises her husband with his favorite pizza but he doesn’t appreciate it because it is not as good as he remembers. |
| **Characters:** | Husband  Wife |
| **Props/Costumes:** | Two pizza boxes. One new, one very old and obviously bad |
| **Setting:** | Dinner Table |
| **Running time:** | 4 minutes |

[*Wife walks in the door carrying pizza box; Husband has back to her going*

*about his business*]

**Wife:**   Hi honey, sorry I’m late. I had to make a stop on the way home.

**Husband:** [*not looking at her*] No worries. I just got home a couple minutes ago myself. I was just about to start dinner.

**Wife:** Well, hold that thought because I’ve got a surprise for you!

[*Wife sets pizza box down and stands in front of it, blocking it from Husband’s view*]

**Husband:** Oh, really?

**Wife:** You remember Lauriano’s?

**Husband:** [*perks up from what he’s doing*] My favorite pizza place?

**Wife:** Mmhmm.

**Husband:** [*Gets up and starts walking to Wife*] The pizza place that closed

its doors a couple years ago, therefore extinguishing every last

flicker of light from my life?

**Wife:** [*Beat*] Gee thanks, hon. [*Husband begins to give a “no offense”*] None taken. [*Beat*]

**Husband:** [*sheepish*] Sorry, can we get back to Lauriano’s?

**Wife:**  I heard on the radio this morning that they reopened, so [*shows husband the pizza box*] Ta-da!

**Husband:** Oh my gosh! I can’t believe it. I never thought I’d see something this beautiful again in my entire life!

**Wife:** Really?

**Husband:** You know what I mean.

**Wife:** You’re lucky you’re cute. I’ll get the plates.

[*Wife turns to get plates. As she does, Husband excitedly opens the pizza box, looks inside, takes a long sniff and looks up, concerned.*]

**Husband:** Dear, are you sure this is Lauriano’s?

**Wife:** Yes honey.

**Husband:** The one on the corner of Washington and Reynolds?

**Wife:** That very one. Is something wrong?

**Husband:** It doesn’t look right. Hold on a second.

[*Husband goes off stage, and reemerges with a tattered old smelly pizza box*.]

**Husband:** Here, see.

**Wife:** [*holding her nose*] What on Earth is that?

**Husband:** My emergency pizza.

**Wife:** That’s not a thing. Why is that a thing?

**Husband:** Remember when Lauriano’s announced it was closing, and I

freaked out and immediately bought twenty pizzas to save?

**Wife:** Until I made you get rid of them after they sat in the freezer for three months.

**Husband:** I got rid of most of them, but I’ve been keeping this emergency

pizza in my safe under the bed just in case.

**Wife:** That’s disgusting!

**Husband:** Maybe. But that’s not the point. Look at this. This is a nice round pizza, but the pizza you brought home is completely square!

**Wife:** Oh, so it is. They must have changed their style.

**Husband:** How can you be so calm about this?

**Wife:** Well, I’m still kind of processing the idea that there’s been a pizza rotting under my bed for two years but I don’t see the big deal about square versus round…

**Husband:** The big deal? The Big Deal?!? The big deal is that they’ve changed a perfect pizza!

**Wife:** A perfect pizza? If it was a perfect pizza, Lauriano’s wouldn’t have closed in the first place! I thought you’d be glad to have it back in any form with how crushed you were when they were closed!

**Husband:** I’m just not good at dealing with change. You remember when they started using peanut oil instead of canola for the fries at Benny’s?

**Wife:**  And you wouldn’t come out of our room for a week? But now you can barely walk past Benny’s without getting some fries to go. Will you please give this square pizza a try? I’m sure you’ll love it.

**Husband:** Ok. I do love the fries at Benny’s, and it is Lauriano’s. Maybe change can be good. Thanks for buying dinner, hon.

**Wife:** You’re very welcome, but there is something you can do for me in return.

**Husband:** Name it.

**Wife:** How about, “No more emergency pizzas under the bed”?

**Husband:** Deal.

**Wife:** And while you’re at it, why don’t you throw that old one away?

**Husband:** How can you expect me to hold on to something for two years and be willing to let go of it just like that?

**Wife:** Easy. [*mimicking husbands voice*] It just isn’t as good as it used to be.

**Husband:** Touché.

[Blackout]

***obedient ownerSHIP***

**Sermon – Week 2**

***Dare to Compare: Feast or Famine***

**Based on the book: *Haggai & Friends: Sixty-six Perspectives on Stewardship***

**By Patrick McLaughlin**

**By Captain Caleb Senn**

**Title: *Dare to Compare: Feast or Famine***

**Scripture: Haggai 2:1-9**

There is such great importance in the Feast of Tabernacles! The remembrance of God’s people

freed from exile and brought into the Promised Land. It is more than a remembrance of

something that God did once. It is the remembrance of God encountering his people and then

remaining with his people.

We love moments of feasting. The moments in our lives where we stop and look at the

goodness of God active in each one of us. When we look back in our own life and see God‘s

hand enriching us, loving us, and teaching us, we don’t say, “That was a great one-time

experience.” No, we say, “God you’ve done it before—please do it again.” You see, our God is not a one-time God! He is a God who encounters us, carries us, and walks alongside of us.

However, it is easy to look back in the closet of our heart from time to time and say, “Oh, the

good old days.” As we encounter the remnant in the second chapter of Haggai it is easy to see

where they may be remembering the way things were. As the Feast of Tabernacles begins to

wrap up, they are met with their own reality of, once again, beginning the overwhelming work of

rebuilding the temple.

There may be some involved in the feast that remember the temple in its glory. They remember the grandeur, the gold and silver. When the Babylonians came and brought the Israelites to captivity, they stripped the temple of all its glory taking all the gold, silver, and valuables. They are having a hard time believing that the new temple will be of any significance compared to the old. However, our God is not a one-time God.

*“Does anyone remember this house—this Temple—in its former splendor? How, in comparison, does it look to you now? It must seem like nothing at all!”*

(Haggai 2:3, NLT)

Haggai admits to the people the poverty of the new building compared to the former temple. But in spite of this he will encourage them to stay engaged and keep working. They don’t expect the new temple to be as glorious or magnificent as the former temple. David and Solomon had lots resources to work with. But Jehovah is going to be glorified in this new temple built out of wood, not marble.

The vision has now caught on, thanks to Haggai. The people caught the passion, a call, a commitment to move forward with building a temple.

***4****But now the Lord says: Be strong, Zerubbabel. Be strong, Jeshua son of Jehozadak, the high priest. Be strong, all you people still left in the land. And now get to work, for I am with you, says the Lord of Heaven’s Armies.****5****My Spirit remains among you, just as I promised when you came out of Egypt. So do not be afraid.’*

(Haggai 2:4-5, NLT)

Even though God had judged them by allowing them to be exiled, he loves them. Once again, Haggai, speaking the word of Jehovah, reminds the Jews of their covenant relationship… *“My Spirit remains among you”* (v. 5).

(*Haggai & Friends,* pp.78-84)

As we take a moment this morning and consider our own lives, what is the reality that we may be dreading? Just as the Israelites were dreading the thought of the overwhelming work of rebuilding the temple, is there a reality that overwhelms us? As we enter into God’s house for an hour or so of corporate worship, are we doing so to escape that reality?

[*insert personal illustration:*]

I have a friend who served several years ago as the training principal in another territory. Before the cadets were commissioned, he would sit with each of them and gauge their perception of what life on the field would be like. Most of the cadets would sit with him and use words like *empowered*, *emboldened*, and *ready to win the world for Christ*. He would then follow up one year later. He found that the majority of lieutenants longed for their days at the training college and had lost sight of the readiness they had once expressed. My friend would follow up with the question, “What do you feel happened?” The majority of the answers came back: “Reality hit.” The principal would then respond, “*Whose* reality?”

The Holy Spirit does not want to be our escape from reality. The Holy Spirit wants to be our

reality. We are called to live holy lives. We are not called to use the presence of God as an

escape from the day-to-day aspects of our living. We are instead to live life with the capable

help of the Holy Spirit.

[*insert personal illustration*:]

I will admit that I tried to use God as my escape for many years as a teenager when I would attend CBLI. I would give a testimony each year that I did great at CBLI last year, and I went home and everything was good for about two weeks. And then “reality hit.” I was treating the presence of the Holy Spirit as an escape from reality.

The Old Testament standard is that the Holy Spirit is with us. However, with the arrival of the Holy Spirit in Acts chapter 2 we receive a new understanding with the new covenant—the Holy Spirit is not only *with* us but *within* us. Therefore, the Holy Spirit is not our escape from reality, rather the means of transforming our reality.

When we talk about our reality, it should not match the world’s reality. Instead our reality should

be a product of the Holy Spirit living within us.

The Israelites are rather downtrodden when they consider the reality of what the new temple will

look like compared to the old. They are drowning in a sea of comparison. This is a tool of the

enemy. You understand that the kingdom of God has an enemy that is very real and actively

seeking to discourage our hearts. It is his goal to keep us downtrodden, disconnected, and

discouraged. He does not want us to understand and know a transformed reality.

Comparison is a very effective tool of the enemy. We desire the same talent as our friend and

we don’t understand why we can’t have it. Why does our neighbor’s church have so many more

people than ours? I wish I was as far along in my spiritual journey as my sister is. All of these

are comparisons that neither encourage our faith nor promote holy living. When we compare

ourselves to others and we don’t match up in our own eyes, we quickly become discouraged

and desire to withdraw.

[*insert personal illustration*:]

I am a competitive person. When I begin a new hobby or activity, I want to be an expert at it as soon as possible. If I get even a few steps into the process and realize that I am not going to master the new activity, I withdraw. I quit. I have no interest in being mediocre. I don’t boast in any of this, it is something that I have to continually, intentionally work on in my own life. The enemy will tell us that if we’re not as good as someone else, we might as well just quit. However, I thank God that it is not the enemy’s reality that guides us. It is the Holy Spirit’s reality that transforms us.

As we are focusing our hearts on stewardship throughout this series, I remember words I

received from a corps treasurer several years ago. During a time of testimony, he stated, “It’s all

His.” When we are talking about our time, our talent, and our treasure, we have to remember

that it is all God’s. There’s no need to compare because it all belongs to him. Can we acknowledge in our own lives this morning that it’s all His?

*For this is what the Lord of Heaven’s Armies says: In just a little while I will again shake the heavens and the earth, the oceans and the dry land. I will shake all the nations, and the treasures of all the nations will be brought to this Temple. I will fill this place with glory, says the Lord of Heaven’s Armies. The silver is mine, and the gold is mine, says the Lord of Heaven’s Armies. The future glory of this Temple will be greater than its past glory, says the Lord of Heaven’s Armies. And in this place I will bring peace. I, the Lord of Heaven’s Armies, have spoken!*

(Haggai 2:6-9, NLT)

The Israelites are concerned that the new temple will not compare to the last; however, God

says that his glory will fill the place. It doesn’t matter how we compare to others. What matters is

that we allow God’s glory to shine through us. It doesn’t matter that your tithe check isn’t as

large as someone else’s. What matters is that you are being faithful and obedient in giving as

the Lord has instructed you. It doesn’t matter that our church doesn’t look like other churches.

What matters is that God’s glory is evident in our mission and ministry.

It’s all His. Can you acknowledge that in your time, talent, and treasure today? Or, are you

holding some back for yourself?

Are you trapped in a comparison game? Allow the Holy Spirit to transform your reality and allow God’s glory to shine through your life.