***obedient ownerSHIP***

**Stewardship Worship Series – Week 3**

***Clean or Dirty***

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

**By Patrick McLaughlin**

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| **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. |

**Announcements and Offering**

***Clean or Dirty***

**Call to Worship:**

As part of his series on stewardship and lifestyle giving, Haggai shared with the temple rebuilders a third sermon that begins with a bit of a conundrum. The big question he addresses is how to get clean after being defiled.

Haggai is setting up the people for a divine blessing, a promise. After more than fourteen years of disobedience they began to rebuild the temple. Once the foundation of the new temple was laid, three months after the work began, Haggai gave to the people the further encouragement that they would begin to experience Jehovah’s hand of blessing. As long as the land stood under the desecration of a ruined and abandoned temple, everything was made unclean because of their disobedience.

Obedience triggers God’s divine blessings, both then and now.

(*Haggai & Friends*, pp. 91, 94-95)

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| **HC#261 – How Firm a Foundation**  **SB#804** | HC-261  TB-508 – St. Denio | HCD25-T11 |
| **Additional Optional Songs** | | |
| **SB#2 – All creatures of our God and King**  **HC#267** | TB-43 – St. Francis  HC-267 | HTD2-T15 (3 vs.)  HCD25-T17 |
| **SB#12 – Eternal God, unchanging** | TB-223 – Lead on, O King eternal | HTD8-T10 (3 vs.) |
| **SB#45 – Now thank we all our God** | TB-775 – same | HTD2-T8 (3 vs. – band ending) |
| **SB#56 – Praise to the Lord, the Almighty**  **HC#251** | TB-735 – Lobe den Herren  HC-251 | HTD4-T11 (4 vs.)  HCD24-T11 |
| **HC#99 – Shine, Jesus, Shine!**  **SB#261** | HC-99  TB-822 – same | HCD8-T19 |
| **HC#171 – Stand Up and Bless the Lord**  **SB#391** | HC-171  TB-149 – Falcon St. | HCD16-T11  HTD3-T12 (3 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 |

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| **Drama – Clean or Dirty** |

***From This Day On, I Will Bless You***

**Scripture Alive!** (Haggai 2:10-19, The Voice)

**Leader:** 10On the 24th day of the 9th month during the 2nd year of *King* Darius’ reign, the prophet Haggai received a *third* message from the Eternal One. 11The Eternal, Commander of *heavenly* armies, told *Haggai to* ask the priests *to explain* what the law says *about this scenario*:

**Haggai:** 12If a person is carrying sacred meat, *the meat of the sacrifices,* in the fold of his garment and that garment comes into contact with some *ordinary* bread, stew, wine, oil, or any other food; then does it transfer its sacredness to the new food?

**Priests:** No.

**Haggai:** 13*What about this situation then?* If a person who is ritually impure from touching a dead body touches one of these foods, does he transfer the impurity to it?

**Priests:** Yes, it is now impure.

**Haggai:** 14The Eternal One says this is what He sees when He looks over this people and this nation:

“Everything they have done and everything they have brought there as a *spiritual* offering is impure. 15Now think carefully *about your choices* from this point forward. Consider how things were before you even laid the first stone back upon the other to rebuild the house of the Eternal One. 16How did it turn out for you? *Were you able to do it without Me?* You came to scoop *grain* and expected 20 measures, but there were only 10. You came to draw wine from a vat and expected 50 measures, but there were only 20. 17I crushed you and everything you tried to do *under your own power* with scorching *heat,* mildew, and hail; and still you didn’t turn to Me.

18“From this day forward—from the 24th day of the 9th month, from the foundation of the Eternal One’s house—think carefully *and ask yourself,* 19‘Is there seed left *unplanted* in the *storage* barns?’ *No. But you must be patient.* The *grape* vine and the fig tree, the pomegranate trees and the olive trees have not borne fruit yet. From this day on, I will bless you.”

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| **SB#255 – I’m set apart for Jesus** | TB-213 – Aurelia | HTD3-T3 (3 vs.) |
| **Additional Optional Songs** | | |
| **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#704 – Give me a holy life** | TB-173 – Nuttall | HTD9-T13 (3 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#790– Take time to be holy** | TB-510 – same | HTD11-T9 (4 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.) |

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| **HC#89 – Knowing You**  **SB#565** | HC-89  TB-725 – same | HCD7-T19 |
| **Additional Optional Songs** | | |
| **HC#142 – All for Thee**  **SB#623** | HC-142  TB-241 – same | HCD13-T12 |
| **HC#166 – We Fall Down** | HC-166 | HCD15-T16 |
| **HC#167 – I’m in His Hands**  **SB#848 (Chorus)** | HC-167  TB-659 – His way is best | HCD15-T17 |
| **HC#160 – I Surrender** | HC-160 | HCD14-T20 |
| **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 |

**Prayers of Repentance [Silent prayers]**

**Pastoral Prayer**

***Giving Stories***

**Testimonies/Stewardship Testimony**

[Each week there is a section of 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 Matthew below as an example. This reading could also be done during the offertory as the offering is being taken.]

**Responsive Reading: *Obedient Ownership***

**(New Testament Record)**

**Reader 1:** Matthew, the converted tax collector for the Roman government had a lot to say about stewardship, life, and money. He begins in chapter 6 defining how to give with a pure heart.

**All:** *19Don’t store up treasures here on earth, where moths eat them and rust destroys them, and where thieves break in and steal. 20Store your treasures in heaven, where moths and rust cannot destroy, and thieves do not break in and steal. 21Wherever your treasure is, there the desires of your heart will also be.* (Matthew 6:19-21, NLT)

**Reader 2:** The stewardship principal in Matthew: Your checkbook and your heart are connected. A godly steward will naturally want to give to people and organizations that touch the heart.

**Reader 1:** Mark shares a story involving a large group of people who gathered near the Sea of Galilee. A young boy whose mother had sent him to hear the master had sent along a small lunch of five small loaves of bread and two small fish.

**All:** *41Jesus took the five loaves and two fish, looked up toward heaven, and blessed them. Then, breaking the loaves into pieces, he kept giving the bread to the disciples so they could distribute it to the people. He also divided the fish for everyone to share. 42They all ate as much as they wanted, 43and afterward, the disciples picked up twelve baskets of leftover bread and fish.*

(Mark 6:41-43, NLT)

**Reader 2:** The stewardship principle in Mark: Give generously from what you have. Don’t worry about what you don’t have. Give willingly and expect God to bless your offering for his honor and glory.

**Reader 1:** Luke defines Jesus’ mission and ministry here on earth as “to seek and to save the lost.” Luke addresses how we use our time, our talent and our treasure to please and glorify God.

**All:** *13“No one can serve two masters. For you will hate one and love the other; you will be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and be enslaved to money.”*

(Luke 16:13, NLT)

**Reader 2:** The stewardship principle in Luke: Be a careful planner; invest wisely so more money can be invested in ministry. Whether you are rich or poor, be content and faithful with what you have been entrusted to manage.

**Reader 1:** The book of Acts is a historical account of the establishment and growth of the early church. In establishing those early churches there were many stewardship stories.

**All:** *42All the believers devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching, and to fellowship, and to sharing in meals, and to prayer. 43A deep sense of awe came over them all, and the apostles performed many miraculous signs and wonders. 44And all the believers met together in one place and shared everything they had. 45They sold their property and possessions and shared the money with those in need.*

(Acts 2:42-45, NLT)

**Reader 2:** The stewardship principle in Acts: Look to meet needs in your local corps and local ministries, places where you can be a firsthand steward. “It is more blessed to give than to receive” (Acts 20:35).

(*Haggai & Friends*, pp. 148-155)

**Message – Clean or Dirty**

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| **SB#646 – How can I better serve Thee, Lord** | TB-15 – Here at the cross | HTD4-T6 (3 vs.) |
| **Additional Optional Songs** | | |
| **HC#170 – There Is None Like You** | HC-170 | HCD15-T20 |
| **HC#149 – In Christ Alone**  **SB#861** | HC-149  TB-132 – same | HCD13-T19 |
| **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#623 – Take my life, and let it be** | TB-246 – Consecration Hymn | HTD12-T3 (combine 2 verses) |

**Benediction:**

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| **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 |

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| **Week #3** | |
| **DRAMA**  **Clean or Dirty**  **By Courtney Smith**  © Copyright 2019 by Bill Booth Theater Company. All rights reserved. Used by permission. | |
| **Topic:** | Clean vs. Unclean |
| **Scripture:** | Haggai 2:10-19 |
| **Synopsis:** | A mom is frustrated by her son’s ill-advised attempt to help out around the house. |
| **Characters:** | Sarah – A Mom  Henry – Her teenage son |
| **Props/Costumes:** | Empty laundry basket |
| **Setting:** | Home |
| **Running time:** | 2 minutes |

[*HENRY is at home when SARAH enters.]*

**Sarah:** Henry, I’m home! I got your text. I can’t wait to see your—

**Henry:** Surprise! (*beat*) So, what do you think?

**Sarah:** About?

**Henry:** All of the work I’ve done while you were gone.

**Sarah:** Oh. Um. (*hesitantly*) Did you throw that load of laundry into the washing machine?

**Henry:** Even better. I put it away.

**Sarah:** Wow, I didn’t think I was gone long enough to finish all of—

**Henry:** What can I say?

**Sarah:** Impressive. Especially because I know how much you hate folding clothes.

**Henry:** Yup, but I thought you could use the help.

**Sarah:** I still can’t believe that you were able to get everything washed and put away while I was gone.

**Henry:** Well, I didn’t actually—

**Sarah:**  (*not listening*) I didn’t even know you knew how to use the machine.

**Henry:** I don’t. I just folded the pile of clothes you left out and put them back where they belong. Done and done.

**Sarah:** (*confused*) You just…put them away?

**Henry:** Yep! I took care of it so you didn’t have to.

**Sarah:** That really is so nice of you honey, but… did you wash the clothes that you put away?

**Henry:** Uhhhh…

**Sarah:** That pile of clothes was out because it needed to be WASHED.

**Henry:** Didn’t look dirty to me.

**Sarah:** But they were sweaty and smelly.

**Henry:** I smelled them first.

**Sarah:** Some of those clothes had stains on them! They should have been soaked before they went through a washing cycle.

**Henry:** Couldn’t have been that bad. I mean, I’d still wear them.

**Sarah:** HENRY!

**Henry:** Relax, Mom. The clothes were fine.

**Sarah:** The clothes were filthy! You cannot simply put muddy clothes away with our clean clothes.

**Henry:** How was I supposed to know that?

**Sarah:** (*deep steadying breath*) Now this means that we’ll have to clean ALL of the clothes. Not just the dirty ones.

**Henry:** Oh. (*Sheepishly*) Sorry, mom.

**Sarah:** It’s okay. I appreciate that you were trying to help.

**Henry:** If it helps, I also put the dirty dishes in the dishwasher.

**Sarah:** Oh. (*beat*) Did you happen to empty it first?

**Henry:** Uh…no.

**Sarah:** (*lets out an exasperated sigh and walks off*)

**Henry:** What? Was that wrong?

[Blackout]

***obedient ownerSHIP***

**Sermon – Week 3**

***Clean or Dirty***

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

**By Patrick McLaughlin**

**By Captain Caleb Senn**

**Title: *Clean or Dirty***

**Scripture: Haggai 2:10-19**

Five times Haggai calls Judah to “consider her ways.” He was not a bit shy; he was very straightforward. Time and talent are personal issues, but not nearly as personal as treasure (our money). There was no fluff with Haggai, no politically correct statements; it was “absolute truth.” The message was clear: “God is not going to bless us personally or as a nation until we rebuild the temple. It’s time to make a stewardship decision.” We need to manage ourselves and become Obedient Owners.

(*Haggai and Friends*, pp. 23-24)

Haggai shared with the temple rebuilders a third sermon that begins with a bit of a conundrum. The big question he addresses is how to get clean after being defiled. As the mouthpiece of Jehovah, he begins with a couple of ‘yea’ or ‘nay’ questions to the Priests. He’s not initiating a dialogue; he’s looking for just a thumbs-up or thumbs-down.

**Question #1:**

*Ask the priests what the law* says: *If a person carries consecrated meat in the fold of his garment, and that fold touches some bread or stew, some wine, oil or other food, does it become consecrated?* (Haggai 2:11-12, NIV*)*

The priest’s point of reference to the question (clean or dirty) was to go back to the Torah, the Law of Moses. Here was their perspective: *“You must distinguish between what is sacred and what is common, between what is ceremonially unclean and what is clean. And you must teach the Israelites all the decrees that the Lord has given them through Moses”* (Leviticus 10:10-11, NLT).

Based upon the law of Moses, the answer to Haggai’s question was NO!

Haggai presents another question.

**Question #2:**

*Then Haggai said, “If a person defiled by contact with a dead body touches one of these things, does it become defiled?”*

*“Yes,” the priests replied, “it becomes defiled.”*

*Then Haggai said, “‘So it is with this people and this nation in my sight,’ declares the Lord. ‘Whatever they do and whatever they offer there is defiled.’”*  (Haggai 2:13-14, NIV)

God’s comparison of his people to something defiled was a serious judgment upon this nation. Numbers 19 sheds some additional light upon this contamination. *“Anyone out in the open who touches someone who has been killed with a sword or someone who has died a natural death, or anyone who touches a human bone or a grave, will be unclean for seven days”* (Numbers 19:16, NIV). The passage goes on in verse 22 to define the impact of this defilement. *“Anything that an unclean person touches becomes unclean, and anyone who touches it becomes unclean until evening”* (NIV).

The priests answered Haggai’s questions out of their understanding and practice of the law. Everything that disobedient Israel/Judah touched became contaminated. The nation was defiled, and everything they touched or did became defiled as well. The sin of disobedience seems to spread faster, quicker, and deeper than righteousness. The possession of a holy thing does not counterbalance disobedience.

The nation was “dirty” and could not figure out how to get clean on its own.

Haggai is setting up the people for a divine blessing, a promise. This divine promise is not restricted, however, to the act of divine service undertaken in obedience to the call of God. After more than fourteen years of disobedience they began to rebuild the temple. Once the foundation of the new temple was laid, three months after the work began, Haggai gave to the people the further encouragement that they would begin to experience Jehovah’s hand of blessing.

While one holy object does not sanctify other defiled objects, that which is unclean does have a contagious quality by which it corrupts everything it touches. Fear and negativity sometimes trumps faithfulness. Apathy sometimes wins over obedience and a get-it-done-no-mater-how-difficult-it is attitude.

In the case if Judah, the ruined and neglected temple had become a canker, a national cancer which affected every aspect of the peoples’ daily lives. Although they tried to make their lives successful, Jehovah was thwarting the fruits of their labor (their cattle, their crops, their money, their homes, their schools, their entire beings) because of their disobedience.

These two very important questions, both designed to help the exiles see the error of their ways, were answered correctly by the Priests. Obedience triggers God’s divine blessings, both then and now. It’s once again that “obedient ownership.”

(*Haggai and Friends*, pp. 91-95)

As we talk about giving of our time, talent, and treasure, we must understand that it’s not about

giving so that our sins are forgiven. We must understand that we are not giving to counterbalance the wrong in our life. It’s about obedience to God.

*Then Haggai responded, “‘That is how it is with this people and this nation,’ says the Lord. ‘Everything they do and everything they offer is defiled by their sin. Look at what was happening to you before you began to lay the foundation of the Lord’s Temple. When you hoped for a twenty-bushel crop, you harvested only ten. When you expected to draw fifty gallons from the winepress, you found only twenty. I sent blight and mildew and hail to destroy everything you worked so hard to produce. Even so, you refused to return to me,’ says the Lord.”*

(Haggai 2:14-17, NLT)

Do these verses sound familiar, like the headlines of today’s news? Economic downturn on steroids! Their recession/depression went way beyond belt tightening; they didn’t even have a belt to tighten. High unemployment, shrinking investments, even the rainy day fund (the grain and the oil) vaporized.

This is God’s reminder to the people of what things were like before they were obedient. This is

how things looked before they got their priorities straight. God wants him to think about what

they didn’t have because of their disobedience.

Haggai wants them to remember their disobedient past, but also that there is light at the end of the tunnel. Now that they had begun to rebuild, he assures them their economic problems will come to an end.

*“I am giving you a promise now while the seed is still in the barn. You have not yet harvested your grain, and your grapevines, fig trees, pomegranates, and olive trees have not yet produced their crops. But from this day onward I will bless you.”*

(Haggai 2:19, NLT)

Let’s be clear on what is being shared here. This is not a prosperity message. This is not about

a blessing that will come if your performance improves. No, this is a priority message. Jehovah Jireh (my provider) promises to bless them as a result of giving the rebuilding of the House of God priority in their lives.

(*Haggai & Friends,* pp. 95-97)

[*insert personal illustration:*]

Years ago my family was on vacation and visiting a local church. When it came time for the offering, I was sitting by my two young boys and they both put their hand out to receive a dollar to place in the plate. As a reached in my pocket and felt two dollars, I pulled them out only to realize that I had a $1 bill and a $20 bill. So, I strategically placed my older son’s hand on the right side of the single and I strategically placed my younger son’s hand on the left side of the single and said, “When the plate passes, put the bill in at the same time.” There was no way I was giving a $20 bill to a church that I didn’t even attend!

We said last week, “it’s all His!” What would it matter if I put a $20 bill in the plate of a church I didn’t attend? It’s all his!

This is not a prosperity message; it is a priority message. We want to get our priorities straight so we can give generously to the Lord.

Are we being intentional today? If not, where do our priorities lie? If our living is revealing

selfish decisions, is God at the top of our priority list?

God is clear in the second chapter of Haggai that the harvest may not be seen right away. But,

that does not mean the blessing is not coming. Often, this means that we need to be obedient

without immediate results. This is the essence of holy living.

It is my prayer that we can get to a point where we can plant without looking for immediate

results because we know that God is working in the gap.