



October 1, 2023 | Pastor Keith Krell
Haggai 1:1-15 | “Ponder Your Priorities”

Scripture Reading

Haggai 1:1–15

Deuteronomy 10:12; 28:1–68

Matthew 6:33–34

Luke 12:16–21

1 Thessalonians 2:13–14

Romans 13:11–14

Matthew 28:16–20

Study Questions

1. When have you told God, “The time has not come” (1:2b)? What was the reason for delaying your obedience? Why is immediate obedience so important? How does understanding the title “the LORD of hosts” motivate you to obey? How can you ensure greater consistency in following Christ?
2. What are your top five *actual* priorities (1:4)? How much thought, energy, and resources do you devote to each one? Do you believe your priorities are in alignment with God’s priorities for you? If not, what would it take to modify your life to better align with God’s purposes? Is it even possible to maintain godly priorities and have balance in your work, family, and church involvement? Who might hold you accountable to live a balanced, yet devoted life?
3. Is it okay for a Christian to have and enjoy nice things (1:4–5)? Is “luxury” a sin when it comes to homes, cars, vacations, and extravagant material possessions? Where do we draw the line? If someone approached you and questioned your use of wealth, how would you respond?
4. What direct consequences have you endured because of personal sin and disobedience (1:6, 9–11)? Hebrews 12:5–11 teaches that God disciplines His children. When have you sensed God’s hand of chastening in your life? What form did it take? How did you respond to God’s discipline? If you responded positively, how have you been changed as a result of God’s intervention? What testimony could you offer other Christians wrestling with obedience to God?
5. In 1:12, the people respond to God’s Word with obedience and fear. In what area of your life do you need to submit to God? What would it look like for you to fear God? How might you be “stirred up” to build His kingdom at CBC (1:14)? In what ways might we encourage a greater level of corporate obedience and zeal for God’s work at CBC?

Recommended Reading

Uche Anizor, *Overcoming Apathy: Gospel Hope for Those Who Struggle to Care* (Crossway, 2022)

Jerry Bridges, *The Joy of Fearing God* (NavPress, 2004)

J. I. Packer, *Hot Tub Religion* (Tyndale, 1987)



October 8, 2023 | Pastor Keith Krell
Haggai 2:1-9 | “A Call to Courage”

Sermon Application Review from Haggai 1:1-15

In what area of your life did you stop procrastinating (1:2)?
How have you practically sought to please and glorify God (1:8)?
What “hard thing” did you commit to do?

Scripture Reading

Haggai 2:1–23
Joshua 1:6–9, 18
Isaiah 59:20–21; 60:4–14
Revelation 21:3, 22
Zechariah 14:9–15
Hebrews 12:25–29
2 Corinthians 3:18; 4:6–7, 18

Study Questions

1. Many Christians are stuck looking in the past at “what was,” instead of looking at the present, “what is,” or to the future, “what will be” (2:1–3). What is the difference between healthy memory and unhealthy nostalgia? When have you caught yourself looking back longingly at the past that no longer exists? In what ways does this help you or hurt you? How have you been guilty of comparing your life, work, and ministry to that of others?
2. Why are so many Christians burning out? Are we too emotionally fragile, or are there other causes? What discourages you most in your service to the Lord? How can you prevent and overcome discouragement? What role should the Lord and others play in helping you overcome disheartening seasons? How can you encourage others facing discouragement?
3. In what ministry are you presently involved? How has this ministry helped your perspective and outlook? Is there such a thing as “too committed” to the Lord’s work, and how can you know if this is an issue for you? Are you balanced in your various roles and responsibilities at work, home, and church? Who do you know that balances these demands well?
4. Why are external comparisons often empty and useless (2:4–9)? What is a biblical definition of “success” in Christian service? How do you know if your ministry is honoring God? Will there always be outward signs of God’s blessing? Are all problems (e.g., health, financial, relational) a part of God’s discipline? If we are seeking to live in obedience, will we be problem-free? Why or why not?
5. How is God telling you to “take courage”? In what ways might you need to step out in faith? What difference would it make if you were constantly aware that God is with you? What do you fear most? How would awareness of God’s abiding Spirit dispel fear in your life?

Recommended Reading

Charles R. Swindoll, *Clinging to Hope: What Scripture Says about Weathering Times of Trouble, Chaos, and Calamity* (Tyndale Monument, 2022)
Kyle Strobel & John Coe, *Where Prayer Becomes Real: How Honesty with God Transforms Your Soul* (Baker, 2021)



October 29, 2023 | Pastor Keith Krell
Haggai 2:10-23 | “A Clean Start”

Scripture Reading

Haggai 2:10–23

Leviticus 11:44–45; 19:2; 20:7, 26; 21:8

Micah 6:6–8

Psalms 51:15–17

1 Samuel 15:22–23

Psalms 110

Zechariah 8:9–23; 14:9–15

Study Questions

1. In what ways is it easier to spread evil than holiness (2:10–14)? What examples can you provide? How would you attempt to help another believer live a holy life? How can CBC help believers in our discipleship pathway (Planted in Truth → Rooted in Community → Reaching in Love)?
2. How much disparity exists between your internal and external life (2:11)? Who are you when no one is looking? What does “holy” mean (2:14)? How do people try to make their lives or lifestyles “holy”? How are you presently striving to live a holy life? Read Hebrews 12:14.
3. How can you more consistently reflect on your spiritual life (2:15, 18)? When have you experienced God’s discipline (2:16–17)? When have you experienced His blessing (2:19)? What did you learn from these experiences?
4. What attitudes or actions are hindering your worship? What unconfessed sin in your life needs to be addressed? What blessings need to be acknowledged and appreciated? In what ways can we grow in our value of united worship at CBC?
5. The day is coming when nations and powers will be shaken (2:20–22). How should this affect your conduct now? What fears, doubts, or concerns do you have? How can your personal difficulties either strengthen or threaten your trust in God? How can you cultivate a deep trust in God?
6. How would you define “hope” (2:23)? How important is “hope” to you? Describe a time when you felt hopeless. What happened to change your outlook? How have your priorities changed during the course of this study? How has your spiritual life changed?

Recommended Reading

Larry Osborne, *Accidental Pharisees* (Zondervan, 2012)

Steven C. Roy, *What God Thinks of Us When We Fail* (IVP, 2011)

Joe Stowell, *Far From Home* (Moody, 1998)

Jared C. Wilson, *Gospel Deeps* (Crossway, 2012)



November 5, 2023 | Pastor Keith Krell
Malachi 1:1-5 | "Love Meets Ingratitude"

Sermon Application Review from Haggai 2:10–23

How did you repent and return to the Lord (2:15–17)?

In what specific way did you experience God's gracious blessing (2:18–19)?

How did you fixate on Christ's return in power and glory (2:20–23)?

Scripture Reading

Malachi 1:1–5

Hosea 11:1–4

Micah 7:18–20

Genesis 12:1–3

Exodus 34:6–7

Deuteronomy 7:6–8

Nehemiah 9:6–38

Study Questions

1. When have you felt unloved by God (1:2)? How did you respond? What did you learn from this experience? How can you help others experience God's love?
2. Read Romans 9:11–16. What does the apostle Paul identify as the basis of God's love? Read Romans 8:31–39. What does this passage teach about the love of God?
3. What causes *you* to question God's love (1:2b)? What causes *others* to question God's love? How should we advise believers when they doubt God's love for them? How must God feel when we question His love towards us?
4. Some people perceive the God of the Old Testament (OT) as harsh and severe in His judgments. In what other OT passages has God shown His love to His people (1:2c–3)? Read Hebrews 12:3–11. How would you explain the relationship between love and discipline?
5. What are ways God has shown His love in your life (1:5)? How have you expressed your gratitude? In what ways is your heart passionate to see the Lord glorified in the nations of the world?

Recommended Reading

D. A. Carson, *For the Love of God: A Daily Companion for Discovering the Riches of God's Word*, Volume 1 & 2 (Crossway, 2006)

Christopher W. Morgan ed., *The Love of God* (Crossway, 2016)

Ronald Youngblood, *The Heart of the Old Testament* (Baker, 1998)

Gary Chapman, *God Speaks Your Love Language: How to Feel and Reflect God's Love* (Northfield, 2009)



November 12, 2023 | Pastor Keith Krell
Malachi 1:6-2:9 | “Worthless Worship”

SERMON APPLICATION REVIEW FROM MALACHI 1:1-5

How many times did you read the book of Malachi this past week?

How did the Lord communicate His love to you?

What unmet expectations did you release to the Lord?

Scripture Reading

Malachi 1:6–2:9

Leviticus 22:18–20

Psalms 145:1–21

Hebrews 12:28–29

1 Peter 2:4–5, 9

Romans 6:13–19; 12:1–2

2 Corinthians 11:2–3

Study Questions

1. What are some ways God’s name is being dishonored today (1:6)? How can you show reverence for God’s name? How can CBC honor the LORD?
2. In what area of your life does God receive leftovers (1:6–14)? To whom (or what) are you tempted to give your highest worship? Read 2 Samuel 24:24. What can you do to ensure you don’t offer worship and service that costs you nothing?
3. How have worship and service become “tiresome” to you (1:13)? How might your attitudes or actions be dishonoring to the Lord? In what specific ways do you honor the Lord as “a great King” (1:11, 14)? Who do you know from CBC with a passionate intimacy for Christ? How can this example motivate you to draw near to God in worship?
4. How would you explain God’s discipline to a new believer (2:1–3; cf. Hebrews 12:5–11)? How have you experienced God’s discipline? How has God blessed your life? Which leaders have had the biggest impact on your life? How did they encourage your Christian faith?
5. How does it affect you to think of yourself as a “royal priest” (2:1–9; cf. 1 Peter 2:4–5, 9–10)? In what specific ways do you “preserve knowledge” (2:7)? How do you practically “seek instruction”? In what areas do you need to confess sin and reexamine your commitment to the Lord (2:9)?

Recommended Reading

K. Erik Thoennes, *Godly Jealousy: A Theology of Intolerant Love* (Christian Focus, 2005)

Uche Anizor, *Overcoming Apathy: Gospel Hope for Those Who Struggle to Care* (Crossway, 2022)

R. T. Kendall, *Out of Your Comfort Zone: Is Your God Too Nice* (Warner Faith, 2005)



November 26, 2023 | Pastor Keith Krell
Malachi 2:10-16 | “Treachery or Loyalty?”

Scripture Reading

Malachi 2:10–16

Genesis 1:26–28; 2:18–24

Deuteronomy 7:1–4

Nehemiah 12:23–37; 13:23–29

Matthew 5:31–32; 19:3–12

2 Corinthians 6:14–7:1

Ephesians 5:22–33

Study Questions

1. Why are believers prone to evil (2:10–12)? Read Jeremiah 17:9–10 and Matthew 12:33–35. What do these passages say about the human heart? How can you live out the identity of your new heart as described in Ephesians 4:17–24 and Colossians 3:1–11?
2. Why does God require Christians to only marry believers (Deuteronomy 7:1–4; 1 Corinthians 7:39)? What are some dangers of a believer marrying an unbeliever (2:13)? What are some practical difficulties of marrying someone who doesn’t share your worldview? How would you counsel a believer considering an interfaith marriage?
3. What are God’s purposes for godly marriages (2:15–16; cf. Ephesians 5:22–33)? What external expressions demonstrate that you cherish your spouse? How might we turn marriage into an idol? What does the Bible teach about singleness (1 Corinthians 7:25–40)? If you are single, what area of your personal life do you need to cultivate to be a satisfied single?
4. How has Western society devalued the sanctity of marriage? What are some of the far-reaching social effects? What are some reasons Christians have trouble in their marriages? If you are married, in what specific areas does your marriage need work?
5. How can you comfort those who have experienced the trauma of divorce (2:16)? How can you maintain a humble posture in your marriage? Read 1 Corinthians 10:12. What are some ways we can guard our hearts?

Recommended Reading

Gordon P. Hugenberger, *Marriage as Covenant: Biblical Law and Ethics as Developed from Malachi* (Baker, 1984)

Andreas J. Köstenberger with David W. Jones, *God, Marriage, and Family: Rebuilding the Biblical Foundations* (Crossway, 2004)

Gary Thomas, *Sacred Marriage* (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2002)

Gary Thomas, *Making Your Marriage a Fortress: Strengthening Your Marriage to Withstand Life’s Storms* (Zondervan, 2022)



December 3, 2023 | Pastor Keith Krell
Malachi 2:17-3:5 | "Justice for All!"

Sermon Application Review from Malachi 2:10-16

How did you modify your dating convictions (2:10–12)?

How did you recommit yourself to your spouse (2:13–16)?

In what specific way did you “take heed” in your relationships (2:15, 16)?

Scripture Reading

Malachi 2:17–3:5

Psalms 73:1–28

Habakkuk 1:2–4, 13

Isaiah 30:18–19

2 Peter 3:8–9

James 5:7–8

John 9:39; 12:31–32, 47–48

Study Questions

1. What might be some ways people weary God today (2:17a)? Where are you wearying God by your persistence in self-righteousness or sin (2:17b)? When have you questioned God’s goodness or justice? How should disciples process disappointment with God? How can we be honest with God about our questions, doubts, or struggles without sinfully challenging Him?
2. Why does God sometimes delay bringing the justice His people expect (3:1)? How was Christ’s first coming an initial solution to injustice? How does the promise of His second coming encourage you amid injustice? How can you, like John the Baptist, introduce people to Jesus?
3. How are we seeking the Lord to refine and cleanse us right now (3:2)? How would you answer a person who says, “My God is a God of love; He doesn’t judge anyone”? How can you discern between God’s discipline for sin and typical trials?
4. How would you define the sins of 3:5? Of which sins are you most guilty? How have you confessed your sin to God and others? How can you first judge yourself before judging others? Read Matthew 7:1–5.
5. How should individual disciples and churches counter social injustice (3:5)? What may happen if God’s people neglect social justice issues? How does a commitment to the Word include carrying out acts of justice? Read James 1:19–27; 2:1–26.

Recommended Reading

Mark Vroegop, *Dark Clouds, Deep Mercy: Discovering the Grace of Lament* (Crossway, 2019)

A. W. Tozer. *The Knowledge of the Holy* (HarperSanFrancisco, 1961)

Paul David Tripp, *Sunday Matters: 52 Devotionals to Prepare Your Heart for Church* (Crossway, 2023)

Duane Litfin, *Word versus Deed: Resetting the Scales to a Biblical Balance* (Crossway, 2012)



December 10, 2023 | Pastor Keith Krell
Malachi 3:6-12 | "Return to Me"

Sermon Application Review from Malachi 2:17-3:5

In what way did you trust God's sovereignty in your suffering this past week (2:17)?
How did you experience the refiner's fire (3:2)?
Of which sin in 3:5 did the Lord convict you? How are you now walking in obedience?

Scripture Reading

Malachi 3:6-12
1 Kings 17:8-16
Proverbs 3:5-10; 11:24
Matthew 6:19-24
Luke 18:18-23; 19:8-10
1 Corinthians 16:1-3
1 Timothy 6:17-19

Study Questions

1. How have you experienced God's covenantal faithfulness (3:6)? What does God's plea for His people to return to Him tell you about God (3:7)? Read Hosea 14:1-4. What does this passage teach about returning to God? What are some barriers that prevent you from returning to the Lord? How does God's kindness lead you to repentance (Romans 2:4)?
2. How might your circumstances tempt you to rob God (3:8)? How does the robbery metaphor teach us to view our wealth and resources? Read Psalm 24:1. If giving can serve as a barometer of love for God, how do you feel you are doing?
3. What are some ways God's work could be advanced by more generous giving (3:10)? How can you "free up" more of your money for the Lord's work?
4. How have you been the recipient of God's gracious provision or protection (3:10-11)? In what ways have you experienced God's goodness and faithfulness in response to your giving (e.g., physically, mentally, emotionally, financially, spiritually)?
5. What kind of witness is your giving to those around you (3:12)? How is God the perfect example of giving? Read Romans 8:32; 1 Timothy 6:17; and James 1:17. What can you do to follow the Lord's example?

Recommended Reading

David A. Croteau, *You Mean I Don't Have to Tithe?* (Pickwick, 2010)
Randy Alcorn, *Money, Possessions, & Eternity* (Tyndale, [1989] 2021)
Gene Getz, *A Biblical Theology of Material Possessions* (Moody, 1990)
John Cortines and Gregory Baumer, *God and Money: How We Discovered True Riches at Harvard Business School* (Rose, 2016)
Verlyn D. Verbrugge & Keith R. Krell, *Paul & Money* (Zondervan, 2015)



December 17, 2023 | Pastor Keith Krell
Malachi 3:13-4:6 | “The Waiting is the Hardest Part”

Sermon Application Review from Malachi 3:6-12

In what way did you “return” to the Lord this past week (3:7)?

How did you stop “robbing” God (3:8–9)?

How was your giving a “blessing” to others (3:12)?

Scripture Reading

Malachi 3:13–4:6

Habakkuk 3:17–19

Proverbs 1:7; 9:10; 16:6; 19:23

Ecclesiastes 12:13–14

Isaiah 58:8; 60:1–2

Jeremiah 17:5–8

John 14:15, 21, 23

Study Questions

1. What are you presently waiting for God to provide? How have you learned patience in this process? Read Isaiah 40:28–31 and Lamentations 3:25–26. How can you recommit yourself to wait upon God and trust in His sovereignty?
2. When have you spoken “arrogant” words to God (3:13–15)? What frustration or sorrow provoked this response? What have you learned from this experience? Do you think it is appropriate to speak “hard” words to God? Why or why not? How would you respond to a friend who claims, “It doesn’t pay to serve God” (3:14)?
3. In what sense should you fear God (3:16)? How would you explain the “fear of the Lord” to an unbeliever? Who are the sisters or brothers in your faithful remnant? What role does fellowship play in strengthening your Christian walk? How does the “book of remembrance” motivate you to honor God? In what way does it trouble you that the Lord keeps a record of all that is done in this life?
4. How is the promise of God’s judgment comforting amid evil and injustice in the world (4:1)? What specific injustices do you long to see corrected? How are you preparing to celebrate Christ’s birth this Christmas (4:2)? How has the “sun of righteousness” brought healing and joy into your life?
5. How are you seeking to “remember” God’s Word (4:4)? What plans do you have to read God’s Word in 2024? In what specific ways do you encourage others in their Bible reading and study? What sort of feelings do you have when you consider Christ’s return? How can you more fully prepare to live in light of His return?

Recommended Reading

Brad Hambrick, *Angry with God: An Honest Journey through Suffering and Betrayal* (New Growth, 2022)

Walter C. Kaiser Jr., *Messiah in the Old Testament* (Zondervan Academic, 1995)

Jerry Bridges, *The Joy of Fearing God* (NavPress, 2004)

Ken Berding, *Bible Revival: Recommitting Ourselves to One Book* (Weaver, 2014)