

## HOW TO PATCH THE HOLE IN YOUR POCKET

### **Haggai: Finally! A Prophet Everyone Listened To!**

#### *The Backstory – The Audience – The Response*

- ✓ These were **godly** people
- ✓ Their **economy** was a total mess
- ✓ They didn't know what God **wanted**
- ✓ Once they knew, they immediately **obeyed**

### **The Passage:**

Haggai 1-2

### **The Principles: How To Patch The Hole In Your Pocket**

#### **1) Put God's **House** Before Your **House****

Haggai 1:2-11 & 2:15-19/ Proverbs 3:9-10/ 2 Samuel 24:18-24 & 1 Chronicles 21:18-26

- ✓ Honor God **first** – not with your **leftovers**

#### **2) Stop **Pretending****

Proverbs 12:9 & 13:7/ Proverbs 21:17/ Proverbs 22:7

- ✓ Commit to live *within* your **means**
- ✓ The **image** trap:
- ✓ The **pleasure** trap:

#### **3) Start **Saving****

Proverbs 21:20 & 13:22/ Proverbs 13:11

- ✓ Commit to live *below* your **means**
- ✓ The fool devours **all he has**
- ✓ 10/10/80 - Pay **God**, then pay **yourself**

# Growth Group Homework

For the week of May 20, 2012

---

## QUICK OVERVIEW

Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching, was there anything that particularly caught your attention, challenged or confused you?

## MY STORY

1. If you were given \$1,000 and had to give it away, who would you give it to and why?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. How do you think most Christians would respond to the statement that giving off the top is an essential part of their spiritual health and growth?

## DIGGING DEEPER

1. Whenever trying to "Patch The Hole In Your Pocket", one of the keys is looking at your overall priorities. Take a minute and write down what you spend your time doing, talking about, and thinking about (beyond normal daily responsibilities and work tasks). What do your answers tell you about your priorities and passions?

As you read Matthew 6:19-24, does it affirm, change, or challenge any of your priorities? If so, explain.

### **Matthew 6:19-24**

"Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. [20] But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. [21] For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

[22] "The eye is the lamp of the body. If your eyes are good, your whole body will be full of light. [23] But if your eyes are bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light within you is darkness, how great is that darkness!

[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. [NIV]

2. It's no surprise to most of us that money and possessions can become our means to fulfillment. How do the following verses help counteract the "it's all about the money" mindset?

### **Proverbs 23:4-5**

Do not wear yourself out to get rich;  
have the wisdom to show restraint.

[5] Cast but a glance at riches, and they are gone,  
for they will surely sprout wings  
and fly off to the sky like an eagle. [NIV]

### **Jeremiah 9:23-24**

This is what the Lord says:

"Let not the wise man boast of his wisdom  
or the strong man boast of his strength  
or the rich man boast of his riches,

[24] but let him who boasts boast about this:  
that he understands and knows me,  
that I am the Lord, who exercises kindness,  
justice and righteousness on earth,  
for in these I delight,"

declares the Lord. [NIV]

### **1 Timothy 6:6-16**

But godliness with contentment is great gain. [7] For we brought nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out of it. [8] But if we have food and clothing, we will be content

with that. [9] People who want to get rich fall into temptation and a trap and into many foolish and harmful desires that plunge men into ruin and destruction. [10] For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs.

[11] But you, man of God, flee from all this, and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance and gentleness. [12] Fight the good fight of the faith. Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called when you made your good confession in the presence of many witnesses. [13] In the sight of God, who gives life to everything, and of Christ Jesus, who while testifying before Pontius Pilate made the good confession, I charge you [14] to keep this command without spot or blame until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ, [15] which God will bring about in his own time--God, the blessed and only Ruler, the King of kings and Lord of lords, [16] who alone is immortal and who lives in unapproachable light, whom no one has seen or can see. To him be honor and might forever. Amen. [NIV]

Looking back at these verses, what two or three points do you think would make the most difference for you to continue to do or begin to put into practice?

3. How would understanding and applying the following verses help free you up to put the principles and practices from this week's teaching on "How To Patch The Hole In Your Pocket" into action?

### **Deuteronomy 8:18**

But remember the Lord your God, for it is he who gives you the ability to produce wealth, and so confirms his covenant, which he swore to your forefathers, as it is today. [NIV]

### **1 Chronicles 29:14-16**

"But who am I, and who are my people, that we should be able to give as generously as this? Everything comes from you, and we have given you only what comes from your hand. [15] We are aliens and strangers in your sight, as were all our forefathers. Our days on earth are like a shadow, without hope. [16] O Lord our God, as for all this abundance that we have provided for building you a temple for your Holy Name, it comes from your hand, and all of it belongs to you. [NIV]

### **Psalm 24:1**

Of David. A psalm.

The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it,  
the world, and all who live in it; [NIV]

What's your response to the fact that all you have is actually God's?

At times, we all forget that what we have is God's, not ours. Can you think of any reasons you typically use to think it is all yours and not God's?

### **TAKING IT HOME**

1. As you look back at this week's teaching and study, is there anything you want to add or change regarding the use of your finances?

2. Focusing on what God has given us is one way we can increase our level of contentment, no matter what situation we find ourselves in. Take a minute and think about what God has provided for you relationally, materially, and spiritually. Spend some time thanking him for these things.

---

Prayer Requests:

⇒

⇒

⇒

⇒

⇒

---