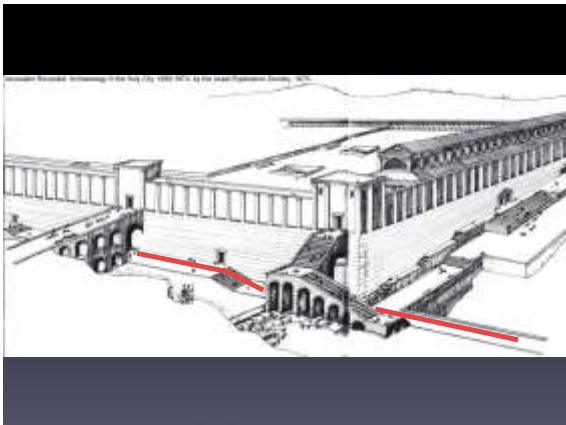


Thanksgiving: Needy or Greedy?



Tyrian half shekel, A.D. 22

Haggai 1:1-14







Matthew 5:3-6 The Message

"You're blessed when you're at the end of your rope. With less of you there is more of God and his rule.

" You're blessed when you feel you've lost what is most dear to you. Only then can you be embraced by the One most dear to you.

"You're blessed when you're content with just who you are-- no more, no less. That's the moment you find yourselves proud owners of everything that can't be bought.

Haggai 1:2 NIV

This is what the Lord Almighty says:"These people say, 'The time has not yet come to rebuild the Lord's house. '"



Haggai 1:3-4 NIV

Then the word of the Lord came through the prophet Haggai: "Is it a time for you yourselves to be living in your paneled houses, while this house remains a ruin?"



Haggai 1:5-6 NIV

Now this is what the Lord Almighty says: "Give careful thought to your ways. You have planted much, but harvested little. You eat, but never have enough. You drink, but never have your fill. You put on clothes, but are not warm. You earn wages, only to put them in a purse with holes in it."



Haggai 1:7-11 NIV

This is what the Lord Almighty says: "Give careful thought to your ways. Go up into the mountains and bring down timber and build my house, so that I may take pleasure in it and be honored," says the Lord.

"You expected much, but see, it turned out to be little. What you brought home, I blew away. Why?" declares the Lord Almighty. "Because of my house, which remains a ruin, while each of you is busy with your own house."



"Therefore, because of you the heavens have withheld their dew and the earth its crops. I called for a drought on the fields and the mountains, on the grain, the new wine, the olive oil and everything else the ground produces, on people and livestock, and on all the labor of your hands."



Matthew 6:31-33 NIV

"So do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well."



Haggai 1:13 NIV

Then Haggai, the Lord's messenger, gave this message of the Lord to the people: "I am with you," declares the Lord.



Haggai 1:14a NIV

So the Lord stirred up the spirit of Zerubbabel son of Shealtiel, governor of Judah, and the spirit of Joshua son of Jozadak, the high priest, and the spirit of the whole remnant of the people.



Haggai 1:14b-15 NIV

They came and began to work on the house of the Lord Almighty, their God, on the twenty- fourth day of the sixth month.



Matthew 17:26b-27 NIV

“Then the children are exempt,” Jesus said to him. “But so that we may not cause offense, go to the lake and throw out your line. Take the first fish you catch; open its mouth and you will find a four-drachma coin. Take it and give it to them for my tax and yours.”