



What are the facts of their lives. One writer describes the sixth verse of the first chapter of Haggai as a 'vivid picture of alluring hopes and baffling disappointments.' 'Ye have sown much, and bring in little; ye eat, but ye have not enough; ye drink, but ye are not filled with drink; ye clothe you, but there is none warm; and he that earneth wages earneth wages to put it into a bag with holes.' In spite of the great efforts that they were putting forth in their lives they were getting meager returns. Day after day men went out to work. At night they returned with their wages, but at the end of the year when they looked to see what they had, they found to their sorrow that they had nothing. They had eaten, yet they were hungry; they drank, yet they were thirsty; they had been putting their money into bags with holes. What a picture it is! Can you not see the tired worker returning at night carefully carrying a little bag which is supposed to hold his wages. Each day he puts his hard earned money into that bag and then one day he discovers that the bag has a number of big holes in it and that his savings have all leaked out.

Haggai does more than to simply paint the picture. Too many reformers paint a black picture in order that they may sit down and admire their work of art. Haggai called the attention of the people to the situation. Then he showed them how they could make the situation better. He gives the solution in the ninth verse. 'Ye looked for much, and, lo, it came to little; and when ye brought it home, I did blow upon it. Why? saith the Lord of hosts. Because of mine house that is waste, and ye run every man unto his own house.' The reason for the famine, the hard times, the lack of satisfaction with life is that the temple

remains in ruins. Build the house of the Lord and the holes in the bag will be closed. There had been a day when the nation was the glory of God. The nation was no more. Judah was no longer a kingdom, she was a religious community and the temple was needed at the heart of that community. They were neglecting their purpose in life. Every man was turning to his own affairs while the affairs of God were neglected. Out of this neglect and indifference came the voice of Haggai awakening the people to their obligations, showing them the futility of their lives, and pointing the way to a satisfactory solution. 'He that earneth wages earneth wages to put it into a bag with holes. Why? saith the Lord of hosts, because of mine house that is waste, and ye run every man unto his own house.'

Haggai might well stand before us and repeat, 'Thus saith the Lord of hosts; Consider your ways.' Look at Haggai and you see a keen critic of the modern world, for no finer analysis of the futility of our life today could be given than that of the prophecy of Haggai, 'And he that earneth wages earneth wages to put it into a bag with holes.' The church, the nation, the world, you and I are putting our wages into a bag with holes.

The size of our business enterprises today is almost beyond comprehension. It is estimated that there are some eleven thousand millionaires in this country. That means that there are eleven thousand people who have at least a million. Most of them have a good many millions. The value of the manufactured products in New York State in 1925 totaled nearly nine billion dollars. No longer is business done in terms of hundreds and thousands but rather in terms of millions and billions. Business and big

business is made the foundation of our country. People exist for the sake of business. All enterprises are judged by the amount of profit they produce. Men are judged by the same standard. Wages in our state in 1925 totaled over a billion and a half dollars. But I say that in spite of big business, in spite of modern methods, in spite of the raised standard of living, in spite of increased endowments for educational institutions, in spite of the fact that the assessed valuation of real and personal property in New York State for last year was nearly twenty-three billion dollars, we are putting our wages into a bag with holes.

Crime increases. During 1926 the police bill for New York City alone was over forty-one million dollars. You can judge from this figure what the police bill of the State and country would be. The reported prison population of the United States five years ago was 109,619 people. Two years ago there were 75,962 people convicted of crime in New York State. It would be interesting to find out how much these people cost the country, to arrest them, to convict them, and to maintain them. It is appalling to consider the loss in energy and in money due to crime.

We can find other illustrations of the fact that we are putting our wages into a bag with holes. The National Foreign Trade Council has estimated that the recent war caused a loss in world exports to the amount of two hundred ten billions of dollars. Mind you this is no group of academic pacifists, but a group of hard headed business men dealing with facts. We know that the war cost our government over thirty-five billion dollars. Just so long as we tolerate war we shall be putting our money into bags with holes. For years the world

works to build up wealth and then in a few months all of this accumulation is wasted and generations yet to come are burdened with the cost of war. If it were possible to place all of the money, and energy, and brains, and man power that was used in the World War in use for the benefit of humanity what a different world we should have today. But no, Christ's way is impractical. You can't put into everyday life the sermon on the mount. The golden rule isn't horse sense. Don't bother with this Christ stuff it doesn't get you anywhere. So men go on being practical and putting their wages into bags with holes. Think of the irony of it! People willing to give their money and their blood for a war that only means loss. We have sown much and bring in little. All we need to do is to read the foreign news today to see the situation into which our old policies have driven us. China at last rising and striking back at those who have made sport of her for years. Central America voicing a protest against our own policies. The whole world a boiling crater ready to blow up and shatter our civilization. All this because the world has put its wages into a bag with holes. We might extend the illustration and look at the disappointment and dissatisfaction among certain industrial groups; we might look at our politics which seem to be increasing their output of smoke for the news columns each year. But we must leave all this and look at our own lives. As I consider my own life and the lives of those about me I see that we must apply the words of Nagai to our own personal lives. We have been putting our wages into a bag with holes. The average individual is dissatisfied with something. This outward dissatisfaction is only the evidence of a mental condition. Men and women do not feel that they are getting the most out of life. We have sown

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much, and bring in little. we eat and are still hungry. we drink and we are still thirsty. We earn wages to put it into a bag with holes. We must learn that to give ourselves to pleasure or to riches or to power or to selfishness of any kind is to waste ourselves. I believe that the solution of the problem of the world's discontent and disappointment is the solution given by Hagai twenty-six hundred years ago. When we cease building ourselves panelled houses and rebuild the temple of the Lord we shall find the satisfaction for which we seek. Each of us should consider his life a temple to Almighty God.

There is one thing that we can never avoid doing. We can never avoid building a character. Every day that we live adds something to our building. Our ideals determine what the building shall be. I call upon you to build a temple to God. If you do this you are not putting your life into a bag with holes. Today's need is for the man and the woman and the boy and the girl who will dedicate his life to God. Who will say, not my will but Thine; who will forget self; who will raise his eyes to the skies and aspire to all that is good and beautiful; who will live a life of helpfulness; who will live a life of sacrifice and service; who will dedicate his life to the worship of God and to the service of God. Such a life will be a temple to our Father in Heaven. May we on this day realize that the time is ripe to build. And may we now as we bow at the feet of our King pledge him our lives that they may not go into a bag with holes...

"In Washington Dr. P. C. Dwyer, scheduled to make a speech in Louisville, lost his plane seat at a Columbus with a priority, cancelled his talks, flew home to Boston, learned that the Columbus had flown to Louisville just as he was in talks."

(Time 12/7/43)

"The Truman Committee reasons that there is little sense in producing war materials next year if the materials are unable to deliver them."

(Time 12/7/43)

Prices in N.Y. State increased from
34¢ per 100,000 in 1920 to
675 " " " 1941

Prices - the highest price
73¢ per 100,000 in 1940
2.00 " " " 1941

"In other words, suppose material standards of living are not worth raising at all - at the price of increasing, close hatred, increasing collectivism, loss of individual freedom, and periodic conscriptions of boys of eighteen for war?"

Lin Yutang

Does material prosperity bring happiness?
Is the industrial man happier than the craftsman?

"The European world is falling apart because its moral values have gone and there is just nothing to hold it together."

To date 9 million dollars has already been paid out to unemployed veterans and dependents of the dead. Almost all the real costs.

Most conservative estimate of the ultimate W.W.II pension bill: \$5 million
(Time 12/7/43)

According to U.S. Children's Bureau the rise in juvenile delinquency since 1940 has been 10%.

Winning a war by distasteful methods will not preserve democracy

What is the temple this generation must build?
It is the temple of peace.

The super of schools says we are spending too much for education.
Education is conducted not for the convenience of individual groups but rather for the benefit of the individual personally - to fit him to fulfill his responsibility in the modern world.