

**Scripture Reading:**

Matthew 13:44-46

# A BAG WITH HOLES

"Consider your ways ... he who earns wages does so to put them into a \_\_\_\_\_ with \_\_\_\_\_" (Hag 1:5-6). Can you imagine finding a pearl of great value (Matt 13:45-46) and putting it into a bag with a hole in the bottom?

**What's Going On In Haggai?**

- In 586 B.C., the Babylonians burned Jerusalem and took Judah into exile.
- In 539 B.C., Cyrus king of Persia captured Babylon and permitted willing Jews to return.
  - Ezra 1-3 documents Cyrus' decree, a list of returning exiles, and the rebuilding efforts.
  - Ezra 4 tells of adversaries who worked to discourage these restoration efforts.
- The Jews laid down their tools and went about their own business for 15 years...
- ...until God sent the prophets Haggai and Zechariah to wake them up (Ezra 5:1-2).

**"Consider Your Ways": Then & Now (Hag 1:1-6)**

- "You have \_\_\_\_\_ much, and \_\_\_\_\_ little" (Luke 12:15-21)  
An abundance of \_\_\_\_\_ on earth with an unprepared \_\_\_\_\_?
- "You \_\_\_\_\_, but you never have \_\_\_\_\_" (John 6:25-41)  
Plenty of \_\_\_\_\_ that perishes without coming to \_\_\_\_\_ on his terms?
- "You \_\_\_\_\_, but you never have your \_\_\_\_\_" (John 4:7-14)  
An ample supply of fresh \_\_\_\_\_ without eternal \_\_\_\_\_?
- "You \_\_\_\_\_ yourselves, but no one is \_\_\_\_\_" (Matt 6:19-21, 25)  
The American \_\_\_\_\_ realized without treasures in \_\_\_\_\_?
- "\_\_\_\_\_ your ways" (Matt 16:24-26)
  - How much of what I'm pouring into my life will "\_\_\_\_\_"? (1 John 2:15-17)
  - Is it time for a different \_\_\_\_\_? (Hag 1:13)