DISCUSSION·REFLECTION

Contagious

Week 3 · Haggai 2:10–19

Death spreads to everything we touch, and our best efforts can only hold it back. In Jesus, holiness is the contagious thing, and God's blessing starts with him.

1 After ninety days of doing the right thing, the people heard, "So is it with this people" (Haggai 2:14). What was God showing them about why hard work hadn't made them clean?

2 Pastor Justin said, "Unclean is what death leaves on you." It doesn't mean dirty, and it doesn't mean sin. How does that change the way you hear the Bible's clean and unclean laws?

3 The system God gave was good, but it could only hold the line. Where do we play defense the same way, in everyday life and in church life? Why is it so easy to believe that trying harder will be enough?

4 God said, "From this day on I will bless you" (Haggai 2:19) in December, with nothing to point to. Why would he pick that day? Pastor Justin said, "The blessing is God himself, coming close." How is that different from what we usually mean by being blessed?

5 Jesus touches a man with leprosy, is touched by a bleeding woman, and takes a dead girl by the hand. Each time it runs the other way. Mark also says, "Jesus was indignant" (Mark 1:41). What do his touch and his anger together tell you about how he sees the people death has touched?

6 Zechariah's fountain is for both the things we've done and the death that's gotten on us through no fault of our own. Which do you think people find harder to bring to God? Why do we need to keep hearing that we never have to clean ourselves up first?

7 Some people keep their distance from God or from church after a loss or a diagnosis, feeling they'd carry their sadness into the room. What would help them know they can come near at NWHills?

8 Who is one person death has touched this year that you could go toward this week? Decide what you'll do: make the call, sit in the room, or say the name of the person they lost. Who in this group will ask you how it went?

FROM THIS DAY ON • WEEK 3

CONTAGIOUS

Haggai 2:10–19



01 | DEATH KEEPS GAINING GROUND

Ritual uncleanness is not the same as sin.
The purity system dealt with what death left behind. It could not defeat death.
Haggai 2:10–14



02 | GOD MAKES THE MOVE WE CAN'T

"From this day on I will bless you."
Haggai 2:19

God speaks while the ground is still bare.
The blessing begins with God coming close.

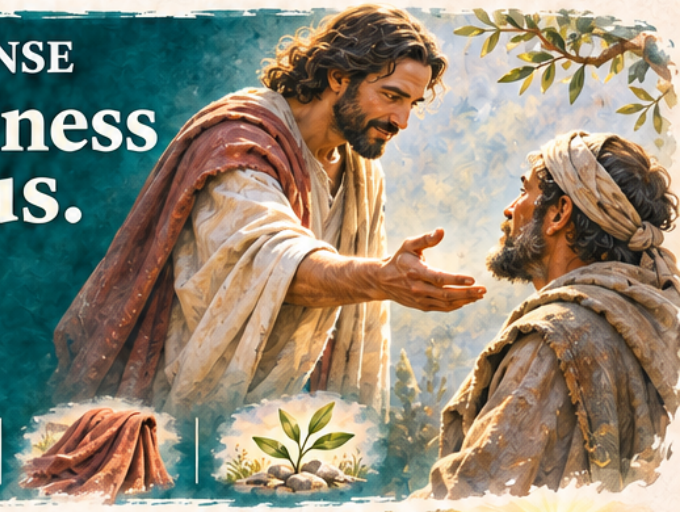


03 | JESUS GOES ON OFFENSE

In Jesus, holiness is contagious.

He touches the man with leprosy.
The bleeding woman touches his cloak.
He takes a dead girl by the hand.
Cleansing and life flow from him.

Mark 1:40–42; 5:25–42



04 | HE WENT IN AFTER DEATH ITSELF

Jesus entered the grave—and rose again.
Death could not hold him.
You don't clean yourself up first.
You come. He makes you clean.
Acts 2:24 • Zechariah 13:1



YOUR NEXT STEP

Go toward one person touched by death this year.
Make the call. Sit in the room.
Say the name of the person they lost.
You don't have to fix it. Be with them.
If you are grieving, let others come toward you.



God's blessing starts with him.

Justin Hartpence • Contagious