

Thursday 9th September 2021

Hag.2,4: *“Be strong, all you people of the land,’ declares the LORD, ‘and work. For I am with you,’ declares the LORD Almighty.”*

1Cor.3,9: Paul writes: *“We are fellow workers in God’s service.”*

Two things (circumstances) to do with the rebuilding of the temple that had been destroyed along with Jerusalem in 586 BC called forth the message given to the prophet Haggai: disheartening over how little progress was being made (would it ever come to anything? would not the enemies of this project finally prevail?) and confused priorities – people being far more invested in ensuring their luxuries and building their own houses over building the house of God.

Be strong: Don’t be disheartened, but attend to the question of where your priority lies, whether that is God (the kingdom of God) or whether it is much else.

Remember that Jesus said: “Destroy this temple, and I will raise it again in three days.” (Jn.2,19) He is God with us through his death for the sins of the world and his resurrection for our justification. If our faith is truly in him and we hear his word, then we are promised that our labour for his kingdom shall not be in vain.

*“Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labour in the Lord is not in vain.”*

(1Cor.15,58)