

Haggai:1, 15-2:9

Jesus tells us in Luke 5. 36-39 that nobody should put new wine into old skins. If they do the new wine will burst the skins and the wine and the skins will be lost. “No, new wine must be put into fresh skins. And nobody who has been drinking old wine wants new. The old is good.” We also learn that the householder brings out of their cupboard what is both old and new. So, we need the Word of God as revealed in the Old Testament, and we need the new life as proclaimed in the New Testament. This is brought out well in today’s Reading from Haggai.

Over the course of their history, the Jewish people had paid the price for turning away from God’s laws, often with dire consequences. But God, in his love and compassion, worked through his Prophets to restore their faith and their lives. Here God tells the people, through Haggai, “I will shake all the nations and the treasures of the nations will flow in, and I will fill this Temple with glory.” God, once again, was being true to his Covenant. The people were returning from exile and God was providing the means to re-build their Temple in Jerusalem. “And in this place, I will give peace.”

We know now that God was, once again, revealing the fact that he would restore the Temple in the form of his own son, the Messiah. Jesus would, once more and forever, renew God’s Covenant with his people. We are, called to live a new life in the light of the Good News. We need to learn from the old. But new wine needs new skins. We need both to truly understand and follow the Word of God.