

“Hebrews #17”

Hebrews 12: 18-29

Review: Last week... Heb. 12: 12-17 (Recap)

The main idea: In order to finish the race of our Christian faith. (Chapter 12:1) **We must clear all obstacles**, encourage one another, strive for peace, and heed the warning of the examples we are given.

- How do we obtain the grace of God... **We become people of forgiveness!**
- We have two options: FORGIVE or become BITTER!

Corrie Tin Boone: *“Forgiveness is setting the prisoner free, only to find the prisoner is you.”*

St. Ambrose wrote:

“No one heals himself by wounding another. Rather, we are all healed – wounder and wounded alike – in the crucifixion scars of our forgiving Lord.”

Tonight’s Study: 12: 18-29

V’s 18 – 21 (Read) NKJV...

- What mountain is he talking about?
- Sinai... What took place there?... Exodus 20: 1-17... *Ten Commandments...*

But even before the commandments were given, God revealed Himself to the people in Exodus 19...

Exodus 19: 18-20

“Now Mount Sanai was wrapped in smoke because the Lord had descended on it in fire. The smoke of it went up like the smoke of a kiln, and the whole mountain trembled greatly. And the sound of the trumpet grew louder and louder, Moses spoke, and God answered him in thunder. The Lord came down on Mount Sanai, to the top of the mountain. And the Lord called Moses to the top of the mountain, and Moses went up.” (ESV)

- It's there and then that God gives Moses the ten commandments. (Ex. 20: 1-17)
- So, what happens after God gives the ten commandments?

Exodus 20: 18-20... (After the ten commandments were given)

"Now when all the people saw the thunder and the flashes of lighting and the sound of the trumpet and the mountain smoking, the people were afraid and trembled, and stood far off and said to Moses, you speak to us, and we will listen; but do not let God speak to us lest we die. Moses said to the people; do not fear, for God has come to test you, that the fear of Him may be before you, that you may not sin." (ESV)

(Text) V20... (Read)

Exodus 19: 12b-13 *"Whoever touches the mountain shall be put to death. No hand shall touch him, but he shall be stoned or shot with an arrow, weather beast or man, he shall not live."*

V21... (Read)

- This is not the mountain we come to...

Heb. 12: 22-24 (Read)... Let's break this down!

- V 22, We come to mount Zion... what is mount Zion?
- The city of the living God... heavenly Jerusalem...
- Occupied by an innumerable company of Angels...

NIV translates it this way... *"You have come to thousands upon thousands of angels in joyful assembly."*

Remember Isaiah 35: 10 (Last week)

"The ransomed of the Lord shall return, and come to Zion with singing, with everlasting joy on their heads. They shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away."

- V23, We come to the general assembly, the church...
- Ekklesia... (Gathering of those summoned)
- We come to God the judge of all and to the spirits of just men made righteous.

Finally, V24...

“we come to Jesus the mediator of the new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks better things than Abel...”

- What’s that mean... the blood of Jesus speaks better things than Abel?

Genesis 4: 3-15 (Read)... Explain. (This may be controversial)

- The question we need to ask is this... What does the blood of Jesus cry out for? (Mercy, Grace, forgiveness)
- Key word here is, BETTER, **the blood of Jesus speaks better things.** Not different things.
- I believe the blood of Abel is crying out for mercy. Look at his character / his offering...
- That’s my thought... you may not agree.

(Text) 12: 25-29 (Read)

- Do not refuse Jesus, who speaks into our lives...
- V28... We have received a kingdom that cannot be shaken.
- So let us have grace and serve God with reverence and godly fear... *“For our God is a consuming fire.”*

V28 (ESV) *“Therefore let us be grateful for receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, and thus let us offer to God acceptable worship, with reverence and awe.”*