

Hebrews 12

For the class, find a photograph of Mt. Sinai from a standard Bible reference book, and check the local library for *National Geographic Magazine*, April 1982, pp. 424, 436, 451 (pictures of Mt. Sinai)

Hebrews 12.1-4

V1 – What argument is this “therefore” based on? On the lives of the heroes of *Hebrews 11*

- In what sense are the people of *Hebrews 11* surrounding us?** The examples of their lives
- Some believe this means people of the past are watching us, as in a stadium, but this is not correct
- See *Ecclesiastes 3.22, 6.12, 9.5-6*
- The country music song "Holes in the Floor of Heaven" is not correct!
- When we leave this life, we are cut off from life here on earth
- Why is this a good idea on God's part?** So we can't see the evil things people are doing here (especially our relatives and other loved ones)
- What are we to do, in light of the lives of these people?** Lay aside the sins that weigh us down
- Joggers sometimes have weights in their hands or on their feet, but in a spiritual sense, this is not a good idea
- What should be our attitude toward the Christian life?** We will run with endurance

V2 – What is our goal? Jesus

- In what sense was he the author of our faith?** His words inspired the apostles
- In what sense was He the perfecter of our faith?** He lived the perfect life and kept the Old Law perfectly
- How did he suffer in this life?** The shame of the cross
- His position now?** Sitting at the right hand of God

V3 – How should his example encourage us? Not to grow weary and lose heart

V4 – How far had they been persecuted? Not yet to the shedding of blood

- Message?** "You haven't suffered nearly as much as Christ did (and the Old Testament heroes either)"

Hebrews 12.5-11

V5 – What is a possibility to explain the suffering that they have experienced? Discipline from the Lord.

- What should be their reaction to discipline from the Lord?** Not to faint and not to treat it lightly

V6 – Why does the Lord discipline his people? Because he loves them

- Most of us have had relatives visit with children who have had very little discipline, and the result is disastrous
- Discipline shows the love of parents toward their children – **Read Ephesians 6.1-4**

V7 – How does God treat us? As his sons and daughters

V 8 – **If God doesn't discipline us, what does that make us?** Illegitimate children (many times the father of an illegitimate child will desert the child)

V 9 – **What is our attitude toward earthly fathers who disciplined us?** We respected them
-**So what should our attitude be toward our heavenly father?** Similar respect

V 10 – **What can be said about discipline from earthly fathers?** It lasts only a short time
-**What kind of discipline did our early fathers use?** What seemed best (very imperfect)
-**But what about God's discipline?** Truly for our good, so that we may share in his holiness

V 11 – **What can be said about discipline as a whole?** Unpleasant for the moment, but later good results come from it

Hebrews 12.12.13

V 12 – **What is the writer's conclusion on this subject?** To encourage one another

V 13 – **More advice?** Keep your faith on the right path
-Children's song: "Oh be careful little feet where you go..."
-**What will careful walking do to a crippled leg?** Help it to get better

Hebrews 12.14-17

V 14 – Summary to the first part of this book
-**Our goal in society?** To remain at peace with all people
-**Why did the writer of *Hebrews* add this?** Maybe some problems on the subject with the Hebrew Christians
-**What is sanctification?** Setting apart for holy purposes (in other words, to live holy lives)

V 15 – We can come short of the grace of God
-**What else does the writer encourage?** No bitterness in their lives

V 16 – **Example of a godless person?** Esau
-**What did he do that was bad?** Sold his birthright for a bowl of soup

V 17 – **What was Esau's attitude later?** Wept bitterly trying to get back his birthright
-**What was his real attitude?** No repentance!

Hebrews 12.18-24

V 18 – The writer is still summing up the book.
-**How did the writer describe the Old Testament?** A mountain that could not be touched (when Moses was on Mt. Sinai)
-**What was the reaction of the people around the mountain?** Terrified

V 19 – **What else did the people do?** They begged that God would not speak to them anymore

V 20 – **How severe was the Law of Moses?** If an animal touched the mountain, it had to be killed

V 21 – **What was the reaction of even Moses?** Terrified

V 22 – **How does the Christian life compare to that?** Very peaceful – we have come to Mt. Zion (not Mt. Sinai)
-Notice the “heavenly” Jerusalem (as compared to earthly Jerusalem)

V 23 – **What is the general assembly?** God's people in heaven
-**What is the church called?** The church of the first born (a reference to Jesus Christ)
-Righteous men made perfect (not by the blood of animals, but by the blood of Christ)

V 24 – **How is Jesus described?** The mediator of a new covenant
-**Whose blood was sprinkled?** Jesus', not Abraham's

Hebrews 12.25-29

V 25 – **What is the warning that the writer gives here?** Do not miss Christ!
-**What happened to those who refused to hear the word of God in the past?** They were destroyed (reference to those who disobeyed God at Mt. Sinai – they were killed for their disobedience)

V 26 – A prophecy from *Haggai 2.6*
-**When did God first shake the earth?** At Mt. Sinai
-**When will he shake the earth again?** At the Day of Judgment (see *2 Peter 3.1-13*)

V 27 – **What will be shaken at the last day?** The created things (the world and all that is in it)

V 28 – **How is the church described?** A kingdom that cannot be shaken (it will be here through all the events of this world)

V 29 – **What characteristic of God is mentioned?** A consuming fire (a warning)

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