

***“The View From The Top”***  
***Hebrews 12:18-24***

**Introduction:**

1. Return To Hebrews 12 & Review / Refresh:
    - Considered God’s Divine Nurturing & Discipline Of His Children!
      - 12:11 - “Now no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous: nevertheless afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them which are exercised thereby!”
      - Our Response - To Continue On - Realizing The Good That It Brings To Us!
    - This Is God’s Call To You!
      - To Persevere! To Continuously Follow & Serve The Lord!
  2. Leads Us To Hebrews 12:18-24!
    - ***Motivation*** To Persevere & To Continuously Follow & Serve The Lord!
      - Describes 2 Mountains & What They Mean!
      - These Mountains Are Interesting Illustrations - Because ***Mountains Have Always Been A Motivation To People!***
    - Especially For Explorers & Climbers!
      - 1922 - Explorer George Mallory - Asked Why He Wanted To Climb Mt. Everest - Highest Mountain In The World - “Because It’s There!”
      - Even Recently - On May 22, 2007, Werner Berger Of Pennsylvania, Age 69, Became The Second Oldest North American To Climb Mt. Everest!
    - Asked By Matt Lauer (NBC’s Today Show) - “Why Are You Still Climbing Mountains At Nearly 70?”
      - “It’s Such An Exhilarating Experience! Everything Is Accentuated! The Beauty Of A Sunrise, Getting Out Of A Tent In The Middle Of The Night & Seeing This Black Ceiling, And These Laser-Pointed Stars & Maybe A Sliver Of The Moon, As We Did On Summit Day! It Really Cannot Be Described!”
    - What Is It About A Mountain That Motivates Explorers, Climbers, Even Hikers, Skiers, And Nature Enthusiasts?
      - The Challenge & ***The View!***
  3. Here In Hebrews, Given An Amazing View Of Two Mountains!
    - The View Of Both These Mountains Ought To ***Motivate*** You To Love, Follow & Serve The Lord More Closely Than You Ever Have Before!
1. ***The View Of Mount Sinai And It’s Problems!***
    - But When You See The View Of Mount Sinai – It Ought To Motivate You To Follow After The Lord Jesus – Because He Is Your Only Means Of Escape From It’s Terror & Problems!
    - What Is Mt. Sinai?
      - Moses Leading Israel Into The Wilderness - God Meeting With Them & Establishing His Covenant With Them - Exodus 19-20!
    - Look At How God Came To Them!
      - ***Read 12:18-21!***
      - ***“Shock & Awe!”***
    - Look At How The People Responded To Him!
      - Afraid - They Thought That God Was Going To Destroy Them!
      - Exodus 20:18-19 - “And all the people saw the thunders, and the lightnings, and the noise of the trumpet, and the mountain smoking: and when the people saw it, they removed, and stood afar off. And they said unto Moses, Speak thou with us, and we will hear: but let not God speak with us, lest we die!”
    - But Is This How God Wanted Them To Respond?
      - He Wanted To Prove Them Of Their ***Standing*** / Condition!
        - Exodus 20:20 - “And Moses said unto the people, Fear not: for God is come to prove you, and that his fear may be before your faces, that ye sin not!”
      - He Wanted To Point Them To Their ***Savior*** / Liberator!
        - Exodus 19:9 - “And the LORD said unto Moses, Lo, I come unto thee in a thick cloud, that the people may hear when I speak with thee, and believe thee for ever!”

- ***Moses Was A Symbol Of God's Grace*** – An Example Of What Jesus Christ Would Be & Do! God Wanted Them To See The Severity Of Him & His Law & Then Listen To His Messenger In Order To Be Safe & Free!

- ***But Instead, Mount Sinai Became To Them:***

- A Place Of Inaccessibility!
  - “For ye are not come unto the mount that might be touched!”
  - It Was Touchable, But It Could Not Be Touched!
  - Exodus 19:12 - “And thou shalt set bounds unto the people round about, saying, Take heed to yourselves, that ye go not up into the mount, or touch the border of it: whosoever toucheth the mount shall be surely put to death!”
- A Place Of Shame!
  - “And that burned with fire!”
  - Exodus 19:18 - “The Lord Descended Upon It In Fire!”
  - The Lord's Presence Was Fiery & Piercing – They Could Not Stand It!
- A Place Of Darkness!
  - “Nor unto blackness, and darkness, and tempest!”
  - **IE:** Like A Great Storm Approaching!
- A Place Of Warning!
  - “And the sound of a trumpet!”
  - God's Trumpet! Exodus 19:16 - “Exceeding Loud!” / Exodus 19:19 - “The Voice Of The Trumpet Sounded Long, And Waxed Louder And Louder!”
  - A Divine Call – Attention Getter!
- A Place Of Judgment!
  - “And the voice of words; which voice they that heard intreated that the word should not be spoken to them any more!”
  - God Showed His Right / Authority & Power / Might To Be The Supreme Lawgiver - Gave The 10 Commandments To Them All!
- A Place Of Unbearable Fear!
  - “(For they could not endure that which was commanded, And if so much as a beast touch the mountain, it shall be stoned, or thrust through with a dart: And so terrible was the sight, that Moses said, I exceedingly fear and quake)!”
- Does This View Of Mt. Sinai Motivate You?
  - To Run To A Place Of Safety & A Person Of Mercy?
  - Have You Ever Been To Mt. Sinai?
  - Are You At Mt. Sinai?
- **IE:** Before 69 Year Old Werner Berger Climbed Mt. Everest, He Had To Practice! In Fact, He Climbed The Highest Mountain On Every Continent Before He Attempted To Climb The Highest Mountain In The World! Finally, Having Conquered All The Others, He Could See The View From The “Top Of The World!” – And He Became One Of The Few To Have Climbed The “Seven Summits!”
  - \* Before You Can Climb The Heights Of Mt. Zion, You Must Quake At The Foot Of Mt. Sinai & Respond To The Gracious Hand God Extends To You – The Hand Of His Son Jesus Christ!

## 2. ***The View From Mount Zion And It's Privileges!***

- When You See The View From Mount Zion – It Ought To ***Motivate*** You To Follow & Serve & Listen To The Lord Jesus – Because Of The ***Privileges*** He Gives You!
  - Hebrews - Written To Christians - The Ones Who Have Responded To The Gracious Hand God Extended At Mt. Sinai - He Lifted You To An Entirely Different Mountain – Zion!
  - The View From Mount Zion Is Magnificent!
    - ***A Mountain Of Privileges!***
    - **IE:** Privileges / Benefits Instill Loyalty!
  - Through Christ, You Have Not Been Left At Mt. Sinai To Experience Its Terrors!
    - Instead, Through Christ, You Have Been Brought To Mt. Zion To Experience Its Great Privileges!
    - ***Read Hebrews 12:22-24!***
- Difference Between Mountain Climbing & Mt. Zion!

- You Are Already At The Summit! The Work Has Already Been Done For You! Now You Can View This Mountain Of Privilege From The Base Up! Each Privilege Greater Than The Other!
- On Mt. Zion Is:
  - The Privilege Of God’s Presence!
    - “But ye are come unto mount Sion!”
    - Zion Is More Than a Physical Place – It Represents The Dwelling Place Of God & The Dwelling Place Of His People! The Physical Mountain Is Just The Tip Of The Real Mountain – The Spiritual / Heavenly Mountain!
    - **IE:** Mt. Everest Is The Highest Mountain, But Not The Biggest/Tallest! Mt. Mauna Kea In Hawaii Has Only 13,796 Feet Visible Above Water, But Below, It Rises Nearly The Height Of Mt. Everest Itself! Most Of It Is Hidden Below! Most Of Mt. Zion Is Hidden Above!
  - The Privilege Of A Heavenly Home!
    - “And unto the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem!”
    - A Place Of “Rest, Peace, Safety & Honor!” (Owen)
  - The Privilege Of Angelic Fellowship!
    - “And to an innumerable company of angels – To the general assembly!”
    - A Joyful Fellowship & Festival!
  - The Privilege Of Belonging!
    - “And church of the firstborn, which are written in heaven!”
    - “Firstborn” - Plural - Every Christian Receives & Enjoys The Rights & Inheritance Reserved For The Firstborn!
  - The Privilege Of Acceptance!
    - “And to God the Judge of all!”
    - The Children Of Israel Were Afraid To Approach Him As Their Judge!
    - Now, We Have Entered The Very Presence Of God & Can Be There Without Fear! He Accepts Us Through His Son!
  - The Privilege Of Intimacy!
    - “And to the spirits of just men made perfect!”
    - You See From God’s Word That In Heaven God Has Completed A Perfect Work In His People!
    - You See That He Is Going To Do The Same In You!
  - The Privilege Of Continual Blessing!
    - “And to Jesus the mediator of the new covenant!”
    - Who Makes All This Possible?
    - He Is The Source Of All Of These Privileges & Blessings!
  - The Privilege Of Purity!
    - “And to the blood of sprinkling, that speaketh better things than that of Abel!”
    - How Is All This Made Possible?
    - Hebrews 9:14 - “How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?”
- This View From Mount Zion Ought To Motivate You To Follow & Serve The Lord Jesus Christ, No Matter What You Face!
  - Are You At Mount Zion?
  - What Do You See?

**Conclusion:**

1. When You See Where God Has Brought You From – Mount Sinai!
  - When You See Where God Has Brought You To – Mount Zion!
  - How Will You Respond?
  - Won’t You Gratefully Follow The One Through Whom It Was All Made Possible? Jesus & His Blood?
2. Upon Reaching The Top Of Mount Everest, Werner Berger Said:
  - “The Beauty Of The Mountain, The Challenges Of The Mountain, Just Captivates!”
  - Does The View From Mount Zion “Captivate” You?
  - Its Privileges & Presence?

- To Obey His Call! To Listen! To Serve!

3. Romans 11:22 - "Behold therefore the goodness and severity of God: on them which fell, severity; but toward thee, goodness, if thou continue in his goodness!"

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