

God's Realities For A Shaken World

Insights from Hebrews 12:18-29
Rhonda Johnson, May 31st, 2020

The Question of Location:

Where are you?

(Hebrews 12:18-24)

The Question of Application:

What is your response?

(Hebrews 12:25-29, Colossians 3:1-3, John 17:20-23)

- G _____
- W _____

Moving forward into the unknown in what is real:

(2 Corinthians 4:7-8, Ephesians 3:14-21)

- Don't ...
- Ask ...
- Reposition ...

This Week's Discussion Guide:

Welcome to our seventh week of this 11 week study of Hebrews 11-13. Our last week of small groups for this season will be the last week in June.

At GPC, we are big on small groups :). Even when we have to zoom! May our church family grow warmer together even through this social distancing season as we connect with each other through our phones and computers.

The good news is that we don't have to wait to be physically together to meet together, develop friendships and encourage each other as we learn to apply God's truths to our everyday lives.

Getting Started:

This week's message by Rhonda was a 'tale of two mountains'. Mount Sinai and Mount Zion. Speaking of mountains, what is a 'mountain memory' you have?

Have you ever hiked a mountain? Ever enjoyed camping or seeing a certain mountain up close? Ever flown over a mountain or seen a picture of one that stands out?

What is one mountain that is on your bucket list that you might like to see close up?

In Hebrews 12:22-24, we read of a great celebration that God invites us into as we lean into the grace of God and all that He has for us.

Speaking of celebrations ... what celebrations that you have attended stand out to you :) ?

Were you ever at a surprise party that actually was a surprise? What was one of your early birthday parties you still remember? What made it special?

What gift do you remember enjoying long after the party?

Speaking of celebrations, starting next week, along with continuing our on-line services, we will have the opportunity to return to our church campus for Sunday services starting June 7th :). Our staff and a team of medical professionals are forming a plan for us to protect those who attend and have a positive experience as we gather together as a church family.

What questions, possible concerns and suggestions do you have about this decision to return to our public Sunday services?

Quick Review:

Let's re-read Hebrews 12:18-29.

From this passage and Sunday's message, and looking back at your notes, was there anything you heard for the first time or that caught your attention, challenged, confused you, encouraged you, or stretched your thinking?

The last few verses, is one of the 'therefore' passages in the book of Hebrews and highlights a point that the writer wants to emphasize. Re-read Hebrews 12:28-29.

What does it mean that we will receive a kingdom that cannot be shaken? Does that mean our lives won't be shaken???? Does that mean there is the absence of spiritual warfare ... tragedies ... losses ... reminders we are in a broken world?

Two responses are given when approaching God. What do you believe about God? Do you feel you can draw to Him or do you feel He is unapproachable? Why do you believe what you do?

If He were to ask you now, "Where have you come from and where are you going?" How would you answer Him?

Digging Deeper:

Regarding this unshakeable kingdom of God, reflect on the following verses for further insight:

Psalms 16:8-11, Psalm 27:1, Psalm 45:6, Psalm 62:5-8, Psalm 73:23-26, Isaiah 41:10, Isaiah 46:8-10, Mark 13:31, 2 Corinthians 1:20, Revelation 1:8

Reflecting on God being a consuming fire, Rhonda shared the following quote from J.I. Packer: "Still God seeks the fellowship of His people, and sends them both sorrows and joys in order to detach their love from other things and attach it to Himself."

Has this Covid-19 season revealed any attachments to lesser things? What might it look like to attach yourself more confidently, closely and consistently to God and release your grasp on the other things?

Mount Zion - the dwelling of the Living God, a place of rejoicing, forever accessible because of the blood of Christ...is a welcoming and warm dwelling place. From it God says "Draw near to me"...

Reflecting on this loving union with God that is now available to us, for further insight, reflect on Colossians 3:1-3, John 17: 20-23, 2 Corinthians 4:7-8, and Ephesians 3: 14-21

Notice what you feel as you read these passages.. Are you attracted to what is written or is there something you are resistant toward? What does this reveal about your relationship with God?

It was suggested that you not rush back into a hurried life, but to consider, as you move forward, to creating margin - space without text - in your day so you can remember these wonderful realities of God and ask God to help you walk in them as you enter your day, your meetings, your evenings, your conversations, etc. What would it look like to reposition yourself to Jesus throughout your day? What difference would that make?

A good spiritual practice is being still and know that He is God. Do you think it would make a difference if you took 1-3 minutes to be silent and reflect on truths of God the Father, Son and Spirit and to rest in God's love for you?

Wrapping Up:

Looking back on the message from Sunday and from our discussion, what is one truth that stands out to you that you can prayerfully ask God to help apply to your life somehow?

Praying Up: :)

Before we wrap up our sharing time, let's pray for one another!

What are some specific requests we have that we can pray for?