

First Southern Baptist Church - October 26, 2022
Exhortations and Warnings - Heb. 12:12-29

Introduction

1. A comparison of Mt Sinai and Mt Zion - verses 18-19 are six things Old Testament believers have come to - verses 22-24 contain eight things New Testament believers are come to
2. A comparison of the danger of refusing, rejecting each

Verses 12-13 - Wherefore

So, because of the chastening of the Lord (verses 5-11)

Now, he encourages them - “drooping hands” and “weak knees” are typical of low spirits
“Lift up your sagging hands”

-reinvigorate, pull yourself together

“Feeble knees” - our word for “paralytic” is the translation of this word

“Put out of joint” - from another medical term (*ektrepo*) - to turn or twist. A lame man might put his leg out of joint on a rough path.

“Make straight” paths for your feet (**verse 13**)

-watch out for dips and obstacles in the road, lest you trip or get diverted

-exert yourself to clear the road of obstacles, don’t just avoid obstacles, but clear the path of them

*The broader context - to “run victoriously” (verses 1-2)

1. Lay aside weights and sin (1)

2. Run with patience (2)

3. When obstacles come recognize that they are from God (3ff)

4. Encourage yourselves (12)

5. Choose the right path, clear that path (13)

Verses 14-17 - Exhortations - urgings

*If the analogy is still holding.... here is how you run victoriously, or “clear the path”

1. Follow peace - pursue, run swiftly, seek eagerly and earnestly. These are the “straight paths.”

2. Follow holiness - no man may see God without it

-blessed are the pure in heart for they shall _____

-Peace with men and holiness with God

3. All the while “looking diligently” (**verse 15**)

-watch out lest you fall from grace (as a way of living)

-look diligently lest you let a root of bitterness trip you up, and defile you. Don’t let that root “spring up”

4. Look diligently - lest any of you be like Esau

-like a fornicator, or a profane (common) person (**verse 16**)

-like them, the temptation is that you might sell your birthright - (or all the promises that are your right, and inheritance in this life)

!!). Esau afterward (**verse 17**)

-later he would have received the inheritance, but was rejected because of what he did

-he found no place of repentance later, though he wanted to - he wanted to go back... but after you sell your birthright, there is no going back

5. Remember Esau's failure:

- a "common" person - the opposite of the "holiness" we are to "pursue" (verse 14)- sold the great birthright, for a physical appetite.
- the birthright: - honor and privilege of being the next family priest, head of the family, double portion
- a striking example of one who failed to "appropriate the grace of God"

6. Three basic warnings:

1. Fail of the grace
2. Root of bitterness
3. Look diligently (look out) for
 - fornication
 - selling the most important thing

Verses 18-22 - Why is this so very important?

Because we are not come to Mt Sinai - but to a greater mount (**verse 18**)

Description of fearful, awesome Mt Sinai: (see Exodus 19) - then the ten commands in Exodus 20.

- could be touched (it was tangible)
- burned with fire
- was black all around
- filled with tempest (the word means to "boil")
- filled with darkness
- and the sound of the trumpet (**verse 19**) - to warn them (imagery of the second coming)
- and the voice of words (God's) - they asked that God NOT speak to them
 - too awful
- it was so awesome, they could not endure it (**verse 20**)
- it was so awesome, that if a beast touched the mountain, it had to be killed
- it was so terrible, that even Moses did quake (**verse 21**)

The idea? - what we are "come to" now is even more fearful, greater - Mt Zion - verse 22

Verses 22 ff - We are Not Come to Mt Sinai (18) -we are come to Mt Zion

- the city of God
- the heavenly Jerusalem
- to an innumerable host of angels
- to the general assembly and church of the firstborn (Jesus)

The reasoning... if they did not escape (Under Moses covenant) - how much more shall we not escape (verse 25)