



THE EPISTLE TO THE HEBREWS: Getting to Know Jesus

Lesson 17 – THAT WAS THEN, THIS IS NOW

Hebrews 12:18-28

I. Introduction

- a. In this section of scripture, we are seeing the difference between the Law (Mount Sinai) and Grace (Mount Zion)
- b. This passage shows us the importance of continuing in faith.
- c. We see the difference between a terrifying encounter and a festive gathering.
- d. This passage presents the difference between the covenants.
 1. The people's response of faith
 2. The people's reaction of fear
 3. The people's reverence of God

II. Lesson Points

- a. MOUNT SINAI WAS THEN (vs. 18-21)
 - i. Exodus 19:10-25 explains Israel's encounter with God at Mount Sinai.
 - ii. They were terrified in their approach to God (Exodus 20:18-21)
 - iii. The Law left them distant and afraid to encounter God.
 - iv. The fear did not succeed at holiness or changing the heart of the people.

b. MOUNT ZION IS NOW (vs. 22-24)

- i. Our relationship with God is not modeled after Israel's.
 - a. Different place (there was no city at Sinai)
 - b. Different experience (angels vs. desert)
- ii. Mount Zion is based on the new covenant of grace, based on believing and receiving.
- iii. We should not come to Mount Zion like Israel approached Mount Sinai
 - a. Fear and terror vs. love and forgiveness.
 - b. The desert vs. the city of the Living God
 - c. Earthly things vs. heavenly things
 - d. Moses vs. Christ
 - e. Guilty men in fear vs. imperfect men in faith
 - f. Mount Sinai is all about the Law – Mount Zion is all about grace.

c. THEREFORE....the final warning (vs. 25-28)

- i. The blessing of God's grace is before us and should not be refused.
- ii. There are consequences for resisting the FREE grace of God.
- iii. When everything is shaking the only question is WHERE DO YOU STAND?
- iv. God shakes things to:
 - a. Remove our trust in material things.
 - b. To test them for strength and stability
- v. The kingdom of Jesus cannot be shaken; in Him we remain stable.
- vi. We have received the kingdom (God's way of doing things):

- a. In Promise
 - b. In Principle
 - c. In Power
 - d. In Provision
 - e. In Protection
 - f. In Partnership (Community)
- vii. We must have GRACE to SERVE
- a. We are receivers (since we are receiving a kingdom)
 - b. Through God's grace in us (let us have grace)
 - c. Marked by reverence (with reverence)
 - d. In the spirit of joy (with godly fear)
 - e. With a sense of divine holiness (God is a consuming fire)
- viii. Because God is a consuming fire (a fire that takes over and/or destroys), we have the privilege of coming to him on His terms.