

Hebrews 12:14-29

Week Twenty

Study written by Holli Worthington

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Day 1



Heavenly Father, open my mind and my heart through your Holy Spirit so that I will understand what your word is saying and see Jesus more clearly and become more like my Savior.

- ✓ Read through the passage in each translation.
- ✓ Underline or write in the margin, themes that you see.
- ✓ Write a question you have about the passage.
- ✓ In the space below, write out a verse from our passage that stands out to you, that you can meditate on throughout the week.

Day 2- Hebrews 12:14-17

1. What two things are we to strive for as children of God according to verse 14?



To be at peace with everyone will definitely take work on our part. *Striving*, the ESV says. Because some people are just so hard to be at peace with! Jesus, the Son of God, humbly sacrificed his own precious and perfect life so that we could have peace with God. Peace with others will take sacrifice on our part as well. And humility. We won't be able to do it on our own, because, let's face it, we aren't very peaceable people either. It will only be done by faith in the One who bought peace for us.

- ❖ For the sake of Christ-exalting peace how could you trust God to help you: (Write a truth about God or a promise from his word)

Be kind when someone is rude

Give up your rights when someone is being unreasonable

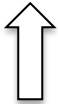
Put someone's needs above your own

Swallow your opinion when someone is being argumentative

Not have the last word

Overlook an offense

Think the best of someone



Lord, forgive me for striving for myself instead of for peace. Help me to be a peacemaker!

Picture and Ponder: "The Greek word translated "holiness" is elsewhere rendered "sanctification," that process by which Christians are freed from the power of sin and transformed into godliness. Sanctification is God's work in us, but one in which we are active by faith. Holiness means "set apart": set apart from the sinful world and to God for his pleasure and service."¹

For Discussion: Without holiness we will not see the Lord. Why is this true?

2. From verses 15 and 16, list three perils that endanger Christians.

1.

-How does the author let us know that we are responsible to help others live in God's grace and persevere to the end?

-Who do you need to check up on that may be struggling in their spiritual life or drifting away? (Make plans to do this today!)

2.

-What are the effects of a root of bitterness?

3.

Scholar's Note: "These two terms [sexually immoral and unholy] describe a profane attitude about life, namely, that which is sensual and earth-bound, that which pursues carnal cravings of all sorts, sexual and otherwise, rather than spiritual blessing."²

Critical Connection: Read the following verses and answer the question:

- How does Esau selling his birthright demonstrate his unholiness?

*Genesis 25:29-34*²⁹ Once when Jacob was cooking stew, Esau came in from the field, and he was exhausted. ³⁰ And Esau said to Jacob, "Let me eat some of that red stew, for I am exhausted!" (Therefore his name was called Edom.) ³¹ Jacob said, "Sell me your birthright now." ³² Esau said, "I am about to die; of what use is a birthright to me?" ³³ Jacob said, "Swear to me now." So he swore to him and sold his birthright to Jacob. ³⁴ Then Jacob gave Esau bread and lentil stew, and he ate and drank and rose and went his way. Thus Esau despised his birthright.

Scholar's Note: (v. 17) God's forgiveness is always open to the penitent. Esau could have come back to God. But he could not undo his act.³

Day 3- Hebrews 12:18-21

3. According to verse 18-19, what was the experience of the Israelites in coming to God that is profoundly unlike ours as new Covenant believers?

Critical Connection: Read the following verses and answer the questions:

- What was the occasion of these startling events (the fire, gloom, darkness and trumpet) at Mt. Sinai?
- Why do you think the people were not allowed to touch the mountain?
- What did they learn about God and about themselves from this experience?

Deuteronomy 4:11-13 “And you came near and stood at the foot of the mountain, while the mountain burned with fire to the heart of heaven, wrapped in darkness, cloud, and gloom. Then the Lord spoke to you out of the midst of the fire. You heard the sound of words, but saw no form; there was only a voice. And he declared to you his covenant, which he commanded you to perform, that is, the Ten Commandments, and he wrote them on two tablets of stone.

Exodus 19:10-13 ¹⁰ the LORD said to Moses, “Go to the people and consecrate them today and tomorrow, and let them wash their garments ¹¹ and be ready for the third day. For on the third day the LORD will come down on Mount Sinai in the sight of all the people. ¹² And you shall set limits for the people all around, saying, ‘Take care not to go up into the mountain or touch the edge of it. Whoever touches the mountain shall be put to death. ¹³ No hand shall touch him, but he shall be stoned or shot; whether

beast or man, he shall not live.’ When the trumpet sounds a long blast, they shall come up to the mountain.”

4. From verses 19-21 describe the feelings of the people as they encountered God.

Day 4- Hebrews 12:22-24

5. In verses 22-24, the Hebrew’s author makes a stark contrast between the Old Covenant and the New. According to these verses, what have we come to as New Covenant believers?



Lord, what amazing blessings you’ve given us in Jesus! Thank you that I no longer have to tremble in fear in your presence – I am completely accepted into your joyful kingdom!

Scholar’s Note: Mt. Zion is one of the hills Jerusalem is built on. It is where David brought the Ark of the Covenant and established Jerusalem as the center of worship. Zion is used synonymously with Jerusalem.

6. How do we know from verse 22, that Mt. Zion is not referring here to the earthly Jerusalem?

Digging Deeper: Read the following verses and answer the question:

- What will the new Jerusalem be like?

Revelation 21:1-7, 22-27 Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the old heaven and the old earth had disappeared. And the sea was also gone. ² And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven like a bride beautifully dressed for her husband.

³ I heard a loud shout from the throne, saying, “Look, God’s home is now among his people! He will live with them, and they will be his people. God himself will be with them. ⁴ He will wipe every tear from their eyes, and there will be no more death or sorrow or crying or pain. All these things are gone forever.”

⁵ And the one sitting on the throne said, “Look, I am making everything new!” And then he said to me, “Write this down, for what I tell you is trustworthy and true.” ⁶ And he also said, “It is finished! I am the Alpha and the Omega—the Beginning and the End. To all who are thirsty I will give freely from the springs of the water of life. ⁷ All who are victorious will inherit all these blessings, and I will be their God, and they will be my children.

²² I saw no temple in the city, for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its temple. ²³ And the city has no need of sun or moon, for the glory of God illuminates the city, and the Lamb is its light. ²⁴ The nations will walk in its light, and the kings of the world will enter the city in all their glory. ²⁵ Its gates will never be closed at the end of day because there is no night there. ²⁶ And all the nations will bring their glory and honor into the city. ²⁷ Nothing evil will be allowed to enter, nor anyone who practices shameful idolatry and dishonesty—but only those whose names are written in the Lamb’s Book of Life. (NLT)

7. Look back to Hebrews 1:6. Who is the firstborn in 12:23? (See also Col.1:18, Rom. 8:29)

Digging Deeper: Read the following verse and answer the questions:

- In Hebrews 12:26, what is the author comparing to Mt. Sinai, when God's voice shook the earth?

- What will be removed when God shakes earth and sky?

Exodus 19:18 "Now Mount Sinai was wrapped in smoke because the Lord had descended on it in fire. The smoke of it went up like the smoke of a kiln, and the whole mountain trembled greatly."

2 Peter 3:10 "But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a roar and the heavenly bodies will be burned up and dissolved, and the earth and the works that are done on it will be exposed."

Revelation 6:12-14 ¹²When he opened the sixth seal, I looked, and behold, there was a great earthquake, and the sun became black as sackcloth, the full moon became like blood, ¹³and the stars of the sky fell to the earth as the fig tree sheds its winter fruit when shaken by a gale. ¹⁴The sky vanished like a scroll that is being rolled up, and every mountain and island was removed from its place.

9. What will remain after the earth and heavens are shaken according to verse 27?

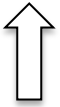
Picture and Ponder: "He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep, to gain that which he cannot lose."⁶

10. In this crazy world of upheaval and uncertainty, what impact does it have on you, that if you trust Jesus as your Savior, you are a citizen of an unshakeable kingdom (v.28)?



Great is the LORD and greatly to be praised in the city of our God! His holy mountain, beautiful in elevation, is the joy of all the earth, Mount Zion, in the far north, the city of the great King. Within her citadels God has made himself known as a fortress.
Psalm 48:1-3

- ❖ One day we will come to Mt. Zion, the heavenly Jerusalem, but here and now how is God an unshakeable fortress for you in uncertain and shaky times?



Father thank you that you are my foundation, my refuge and my fortress. No matter how unstable and chaotic the world around me is, I can trust in you to never leave me and give me the grace to follow where you lead.

- ii. Instead of refusing him (v. 25) what should our posture or attitude toward God be according to verse 28b?



Verse 28 reminds us that as citizens of God's unshakeable kingdom we live to worship and serve our King with reverence and awe. In his kingdom *we* are holy priests (1 Peter 2:9) and our worship is to offer *ourselves* as living sacrifices (Rom. 12:1). How amazing, that as God's people, we reenact Jesus' life in this way.

- ❖ With all we've learned about priests, how are we, as believers, holy priests in God's kingdom?
- ❖ How do we function as a living sacrifice?

12. What is the reason given in verse 29 that we come to God with reverence and awe?

13. How do verses 25 and 29 help explain each other?

One Thing: Look back over this week's study. Pick one thing that God was stirring in your heart, convicting you about, or something new that you learned and write it here.

How will knowing this impact the way you think and act?

¹ Richard D. Phillips. Hebrews (Reformed Expository Commentary) (Kindle Locations 7028-

² Richard D. Phillips. Hebrews (Reformed Expository Commentary) (Kindle Locations 7028-7029). Kindle Edition.

³ Expositor's Commentary Copyright © 1998-2018 Olive Tree Bible Software

⁴ Ibid.

⁵ Miller, Paul. J Curve- Dying and Rising with Jesus in Everyday Life, Crossway, 2019 p.113

⁶ Elliot, Jim. The Journals of Jim Elliot, edited by Elisabeth

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