Hebrews - Jesus the Final Word: The Community of Faith

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Hebrews 12:18 – 13:25

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Reflection & Discussion Guide

We have heard every last word of Hebrews

The author has attempted to pastor the people in the midst of leaving fundamentalism and living in a pluralistic, relativistic culture.

*What has stuck with you from this series in Hebrews?

At the end of this sermon, the author summarizes with a metaphor contrasting 2 mountains: Mount Sinai and Mount Zion

Read and discuss Hebrews 12:18-24 (NIV)

18 You have not come to a mountain that can be touched and that is burning with fire; to darkness, gloom and storm; 19 to a trumpet blast or to such a voice speaking words that those who heard it begged that no further word be spoken to them, 20 because they could not bear what was commanded: "If even an animal touches the mountain, it must be stoned to death." 21 The sight was so terrifying that Moses said, "I am trembling with fear."

22 But you have come to Mount Zion, to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem. You have come to thousands upon thousands of angels in joyful assembly, 23 to the church of the firstborn, whose names are written in heaven. You have come to God, the Judge of all, to the spirits of the righteous made perfect, 24 to Jesus the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel.

*How do you understand the contrast between these two mountains from this passage?

*How is Mount Zion – this new community a total break from what has gone before?

This new community have a very specific nature

Read and discuss Hebrews 13:1-17 (NIV)

13 *Keep on loving one another as brothers and sisters. 2 Do not forget to show hospitality to strangers, for by so doing some people have shown hospitality to angels without knowing it. 3 Continue to remember those in prison as if you were together with them in prison, and those who are mistreated as if you yourselves were suffering. 4 Marriage should be honored by all, and the marriage bed kept pure, for God will judge the adulterer and all the sexually immoral. 5 Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have, because God has said,*

"Never will I leave you;
never will I forsake you."

6 So we say with confidence,

"The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid.
What can mere mortals do to me?"

7 Remember your leaders, who spoke the word of God to you. Consider the outcome of their way of life and imitate their faith. 8 Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever. 9 Do not be carried away by all kinds of strange teachings. It is good for our hearts to be strengthened by grace, not by eating ceremonial foods, which is of no benefit to those who do so. 10 We have an altar from which those who minister at the tabernacle have no right to eat. 11 The high priest carries the blood of animals into the Most Holy Place as a sin offering, but the bodies are burned outside the camp. 12 And so Jesus also suffered outside the city gate to make the people holy through his own blood. 13 Let us, then, go to him outside the camp, bearing the disgrace he bore. 14 For here we do not have an enduring city, but we are looking for the city that is to come. 15 Through Jesus, therefore, let us continually offer to God a sacrifice of praise—the fruit of lips that openly profess his name. 16 And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased.

17 Have confidence in your leaders and submit to their authority, because they keep watch over you as those who must give an account. Do this so that their work will be a joy, not a burden, for that would be of no benefit to you.

*What do you notice about the 'Church of the firstborn'? What are some of the main priorities of this community?
*How does a community like this draw us nearer to God?

The only way community works is:
If we come to God TOGETHER
We listen to the Holy Spirit TOGETHER
We have to LET OTHERS IN to our lives
Being an active part of a community doing this, empowers us to keep drawing near to the Jesus who is everything.

*Who in your life do you come to God with together?
*What is the importance of listening to the Holy Spirit in community?
*How have you experienced or seen isolation lead to struggle and failure in spiritual lives?
*What do you find challenging about letting others in? How have you been formed and shaped in community when you do?

The goal of Pulpit Rock Church is to help us all be spiritually formed – the work of the Holy Spirit in our everyday lives, drawing us into life with Jesus and helping us become who God created us to be
The way we do that is ALWAYS in community.

*Is Pulpit Rock a people that you want to commit to being formed together with?
*What is the Spirit saying to you about the ways you are living in a community of faith?

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