

- e) *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." <sup>6</sup> So we say with confidence, "The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid. What can mere mortals do to me?"*

- ii. The chapter continues calling us to imagine things in line with the reality of what God says is true in our lives.

#### LIVE THE STORY

*The following questions are designed for use in our Community Groups as an aid to growth in the Gospel and Community.*

- What do you imagine is taking place when we gather to worship?
- What is the significance of Mt. Zion being untouchable? Or that it cannot be shaken? Why does that matter for us?
- Of the seven things listed as being at Mt. Zion, did any stand out to you? Why?
- Is there anything surprising in vv25-29 for you? Explain. What do these verses speak to you?
- What is the central or primary application for this whole series? Be specific in describing various ways you could apply it.
- What do you think is meant by the Farmer quote, "When you go against the grain of the universe, you get splinters"?
- How is our text calling us to imagine the kingdom in our gathered life? Have you done this? What has been your experience?
- How is our text calling us to imagine the kingdom in our scattered life? Have you done this before? How might doing this change your experience?

## Imagining the Kingdom – 5 *Living in the Shadow of Mount Zion*

Jerry Cisar — June 4, 2023

Text: Hebrews 12:18-29; 13:1-6

### Introduction

#### I. The Untouchable, Unshakeable Things of Mt. Zion

A. Sinai can be touched; Zion cannot be touched.

- Heb. 11:1-3

B. Sinai can be shaken; Zion cannot be shaken.

- i. Heb. 8:13

- ii. Zion, because it is unseen, part of what came *before everything visible*, cannot be shaken... can never be removed.

C. What do we find at Mt. Zion that we cannot see, but have to imagine?

- i. The city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem (22)
- ii. Thousands upon thousands of angels in joyful assembly (22)
- iii. The church of the firstborn, whose names are written in heaven (23)

iv. God, the Judge of all (23)

v. The spirits of the righteous made perfect (23)

vi. To Jesus the mediator of a new covenant (24)

vii. To the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than that of Abel (24)

## II. The Unchangeable God of Mt. Zion (12:25-29)

A. Grace doesn't mean judgment has ceased altogether.

B. We are receiving a kingdom.

C. Grace does not mean right and wrong have ceased to exist.

i. Simply removing the Law has never produced life.

M. Scott Peck: "For the moment I can do no better than to heed my son, who, with the characteristic vision of eight-year-olds, explained simply, 'Why, Daddy, evil is 'live' spelled backward.'" Rephrasing it, Peck writes, "Evil is in opposition to life."

ii. There is an unshakable, unmovable law of the universe, if you will, that remains true no matter what.

H. H. Farmer: "When you go against the grain of the universe, you get splinters."

## III. Living in the Shadow of Mt. Zion

A. Imagine the Kingdom.

B. Imagine what is happening when we gather:

i. "You have come..." was an existential statement.

ii. What do you imagine is taking place when we gather to worship? If you only look at what you see, you'll sooner or later find something much more exciting to be a part of.

C. Imagine what is happening when we scatter (13:1-6):

i. Consider how we need to exercise our imaginations to...

a) *Keep on loving one another as brothers and sisters.*

b) *Do not forget to show hospitality to strangers, for by so doing some people have shown hospitality to angels without knowing it.*

c) *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.*

d) Marriage should be honored by all, and the marriage bed kept pure, for God will judge the adulterer and all the sexually immoral.