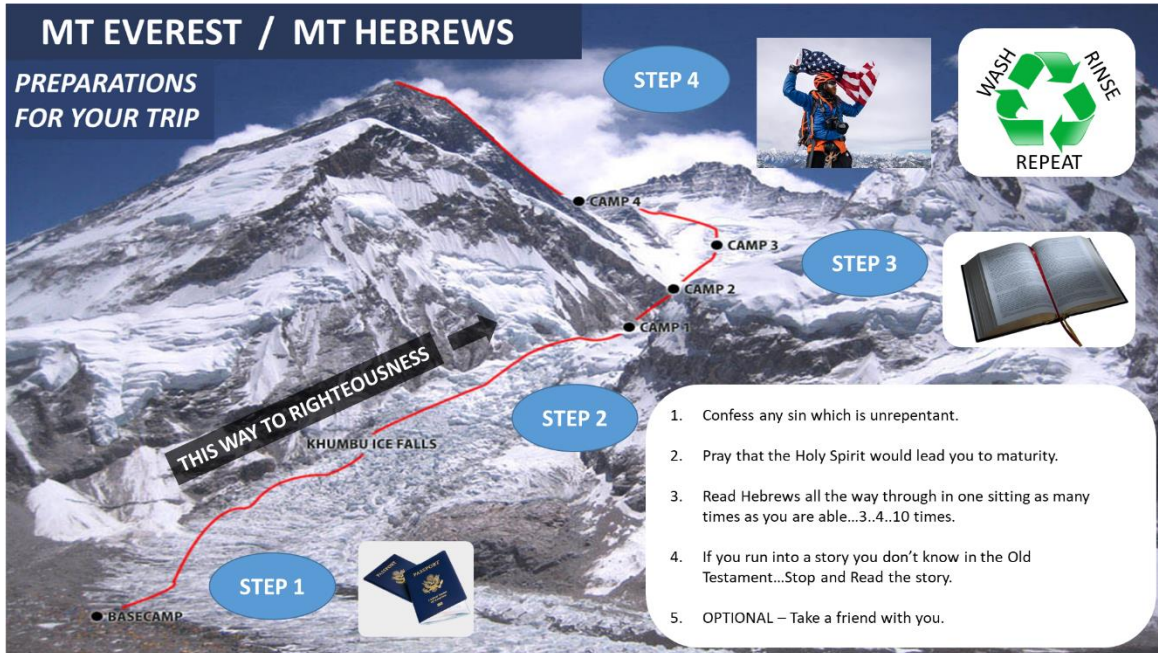


LESSON 5 – The Greatest Death of All... ...Death of the Wealthiest Testator Ever to Live.

Luke 2:10-11

10 But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for behold, I bring you good news of **great joy** which will be for all the people; 11 for today in the city of David there has been born for you a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.



MT EVEREST / MT HEBREWS
PREPARATIONS FOR YOUR TRIP

STEP 1
BASECAMP

STEP 2
KHUMBU ICE FALLS

1. Confess any sin which is unrepentant.
2. Pray that the Holy Spirit would lead you to maturity.
3. Read Hebrews all the way through in one sitting as many times as you are able...3..4..10 times.
4. If you run into a story you don't know in the Old Testament...Stop and Read the story.
5. OPTIONAL – Take a friend with you.

STEP 3


STEP 4

WASH RINSE REPEAT

What does it take to get to the summit?

Mt Everest

Follow a good guide.




Follow the Holy Spirit

Mt Hebrews

Mt Everest

Acclimate to Altitude




Acclimate to Biblical Theology

Mt Hebrews

Mt Everest

Oxygen




Faith

Mt Hebrews

Mt Everest

Motivation to Endure



Spiritual Motivation To Endure to the End

Mt Hebrews

What is the point of Heb 11:39-40?

- Hebrews 11 taught us that it is by faith we endure the trials to come.
- Yet ...
 - None of the people he outlined did it perfectly.
 - None of them received the ultimate promise of a “city built by God”.
- And we have a strange allusion to having all the saints be together to be perfect (or whole) in vs 39 and 40
 - ³⁹ And all these, having gained approval through their faith, did not receive what was promised, ⁴⁰ because God had provided something better for us, so that apart from us they would not be made perfect.
- What is the author getting at?
- Why did he go from this to the “Therefore” of chapter 12?

Author and Perfecter of Faith

Hebrews 12:1-3

1Therefore, since we have so great a cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us also lay aside every encumbrance and the sin which so easily entangles us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, 2 fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. 3 For consider Him who has endured such hostility by sinners against Himself, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.

- **For consider Him...so that you will not grow weary and lose heart...or paraphrased...“to find motivation to endure”**
- **Verse 2 holds a clue as to how we should consider him. Let’s look closer at it.**
 1. Fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith...why is this our motivation to endure suffering?
 2. “He” ...endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God...what motivated him to do this?
 3. **Who for the joy set before Him...what was this joy all about?**
- What did Jesus gain post cross when compared to pre-cross?
 - It wasn’t power for himself...nor riches as he already owned everything as creator...He was God.
 - He gained a man’s body...but this was lower than the angels and humbling...loss not gain.

➤ He ended up back where He began...at the right hand of the Father...yet now as the God Man.

• **What made Jesus so joyful about coming, dying and being resurrected?**

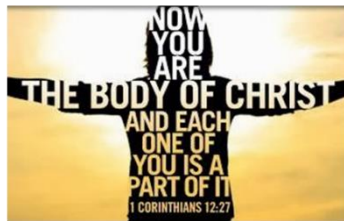
Jesus Own Words – John 17

- From John 17...
 - Jesus wants his joy to be in us. What was his Joy rooted in?
 - He wants us to be united with the Father as he is in the Father...and with Him.
 - He wants us to be with Him...to see His Glory.
 - We are to be set apart ...sanctified for this purpose...by the truth of God’s word.
 - Lots of “unity”, “glory”, “Joy” and “be with” texts!
- Where else in the NT do we get imagery to help us understand what Jesus is saying?

The Bride of Christ



The Body of Christ



The Family of God



The Bride of Christ

- Genesis 2:24 ...the man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife; and they shall become one flesh.
- The church as the Bride of Christ - Mark 2:19-20; John 3:29; 2 Corinth 11:2; Eph 5:25; Rev 19:7-9; Jer 31:31-33;
- Key aspects of historical Jewish wedding traditions shed light on what is intended.
 1. Shiddukhin (or Preliminary Arrangements)
 - Typically, the father arranges for a bride for his son.
 2. Ketubah (or written contract)
 - Outlines that the Groom will support the bride
 - Stipulates the bride’s dowry

3. Mohar (bridal payment...the bride price)
 - This was paid to the bride's family to set her free from that household
4. Mikveh (ritual immersion)
 - Separately done by groom and bride as a spiritual cleansing before the betrothal
5. Eyrusin (or Betrothal)
 - Formal announcement to be married.
 - Lasts for 1 year.
 - Exchange ring / cup of wine...seal the betrothal vows.
 - Legally equal to marriage even though the marriage has not been consummated or completed.
6. Matan (or bridal gift or pledge...in Greek it is Charismata-gift)
 - Prior to leaving for his home after the Betrothal ceremony the Groom would give his bride a gift as a promise to fulfill his obligation to marry her.
7. During Betrothal
 - Groom leaves to prepare a place for his bride. Father determines when it is ready and gives the ok to return to get his bride.
 - Bride prepares herself for her groom. Wedding garments are to be made.
8. Nissuin (marriage ceremony)
 - Bride knew approx. what time the groom would return but did not know the day/hour...close to 1yr. The bride & bridal party were to be ready.
 - The bride grooms party would go ahead of him and shout "behold the bridegroom comes"...then sounding of the shofar (horn of animal blown).
 - The whole procession would go to the bride's home and set up "huppah"
 - The couple would say a blessing over the cup of wine and the vows would be finalized.
 - Then comes the wedding feast (Sheva Brachot)...7 days of food, music, dance and celebration.
9. Shana Rishona (1 yr to delight in his wife...Deut 24:5)
 - Groom was to not go away to war but stay home and take delight in his wife for 1 yr establishing their life long relationship

Groom + Bride = The Body of Christ?

- So, if a man and a woman get married, they are to become one flesh...one conceptual person or body sharing everything...as a testimony of being made in God's image.
- Yet we are many members of one body...the body of Christ. (1 Corinthians 12:12-27)

- The head of the body is Christ (Eph 1:22, 4:12, 5:23, Col 1:18)
 - ... yet He is in Heaven and his body is spread around...some have died and some are still living.
- In essence, Christ, the groom, awaits to be reunited with His bride to become one body in Heaven...joined to Christ, to the Father and the Holy Ghost.

The Family of God

- Adam was given dominion over this earth but fell...and was cursed. (Gen 1-3)
 - We were born in Adam our Father into the human race...and under the curse...alive human bodies with dead spirits. (Romans 5:12-21)
 - Jesus was the only begotten Son of God...100% God and 100% Man...and inherited all things...ALL things. (Hebrews 1:2)
 - We are “born again” a second time into the family of God by the power of the Holy Spirit through the means of our faith in Jesus Christ...making our spirits alive to Christ. (John 3)
 - We are adopted as sons & daughters into the family of God with Christ as the first born among many brothers (Romans 8)
 - Jesus calls us brothers if we suffer with Him (Hebrews 2:11-13)
 - Jesus refers to us as his brothers and mother in a relational intimacy way (Mark 3:32-35)
- Bottom line: We are the bride of Christ, part of his body, sons & daughters in the family of God, and brothers and sisters to Christ...the family of God.
- **Can there be any way to be more intimately related to Christ?**

How Do Relationships Create Joy?

- Was the wedding and honeymoon great joy for you?
- If you love your spouse for 60 years, does it bring greater joy to be separate or together?
- If you got lost from your parents in the shopping mall was that great joy or was there joy when you found your parents around the corner?
- Does the thought of losing an arm or leg bring you joy or pain?
- The most horrific pain in this life you could cause a parent is to lose a child to kidnapping or death. Yet, if the child was lost and is now found, there would be great joy restored!
- Why does a mother have great joy after the pain of child birth? ...so much that she almost forgets the pain.

In Luke 15:11-31 we see...

- All of heaven “takes great joy in God” when one lost sinner is found!

- *Are we starting to see where the joy comes from? It is about the intimate relationship.*
- *So why would He, Jesus, (groom, head, & Elder brother) be so willing to separate from us? Why not stay?*

...But Our Groom/Head/Elder Brother Has Died!

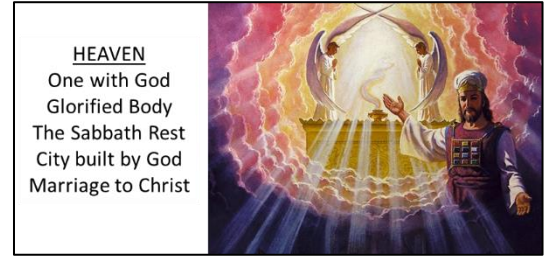
Hebrews 9:15-17

¹⁵ For this reason He is the mediator of a new covenant, so that, since a death has taken place for the redemption of the transgressions that were *committed* under the first covenant, those who have been called may receive the promise of the eternal inheritance. ¹⁶ For where a covenant is, there must of necessity be the death of the one who made it. ¹⁷ For a covenant is valid *only* when men are dead, for it is never in force while the one who made it lives.

- His blood shed on the cross created a new covenant. This covenant (or testament in Latin)...
 - was a marriage contract
 - was the creating, grafting or transplanting of a new part of his body
 - was a birth certificate and an adoption agreement making us permanent family
 - **BUT WAS ALSO A LAST WILL AND TESTAMENT.**
 - Last Will and Testaments (or covenants) must...
 - Specify the Testator (one who is leaving estate to another upon death), recipient of estate...and executor (one who ensures it will be done).
 - This is typically reviewed and approved by a probate court judge for authenticity in our culture.
 - Then the Testator must die for it to be in effect.
 - Who is our Testator? Jesus
 - Who receives it? His betrothed bride, his body, the children of God, his brethren...his closest relationships.
 - Who is the executor? Since Jesus is resurrected and inherits all power, he is ensuring we receive our inheritance.
 - Who is the probate judge? Since Jesus sat down at the right hand of the father, he is given the power to judge all things.
-
- **Our inheritance is secure...the books are cooked in our favor! Ephesians 1:11-14**
 - **What then do we inherit?**

What Does He Give Us As Our Inheritance?

- **Trinitarian intimacy (John 17)**
- Every spiritual blessing (Ephesians 1:3)
- Eternal LIFE as opposed to Eternal DEATH (John 3:16)
- Pleasures forever more at his right hand (Psalm 16:11)
- Glory, Power and Dominion (Romans 8, Hebrews 2:1-9)
- We will reign with him (II Timothy 2:12, Rev 3:21)
- Never ending increase in our joy (Ephesians 2:7)
- New bodies (1 Corinthians 15:35-58)
- Eternal homes (John 14:2-3)
- Removes the sting of death making it our servant (I Corinthians 15:55)
 - How does our inheritance compare with our sinful desires?
 - Would you rather have an iPhone, a beautiful body for 5-10 yrs, drug induced high, luxurious retirement for 20 yrs, a non-offended happy family for 80 yrs, ...all the wealth on the planet for 100yrs?
 - **THIS IS ALL LOSS...DUNG...A HEAP OF LIES AND DECEIT.**
- But wait he also gives us suffering in this life (Philippians 1:27; Rom 8:17)
 - How is this a good thing? It draws us near to Christ relationally not just positionally.
 - How does our inheritance compare to our sufferings in this life?
 - **NO COMPARISON....SHINE A LIGHT ON WHAT YOU REALLY BELIEVE...AND RUN TOWARDS JESUS...RUN!**



HEAVEN
One with God
Glorified Body
The Sabbath Rest
City built by God
Marriage to Christ

If You Want To Be A Part Of This...

- Place your trust in Jesus Christ & Be baptized
- Note: Baptism signifies that you are willing to be identified as a Christ follower
 - Immersion in water (dying to this sinful life)
 - Raised out of water (raised to new life in Christ...born again)
- By Faith this signifies and illustrates the Lord is alive...
 - and now you are too...spiritually.
- Your earthly body will die...it may not be an easy death for us...but your spirit is already brought to eternal life and can never be separated from Christ again.

- He gives you the gift of the Holy Spirit as a “betrothal promise and an inheritance guarantee” that He will return and will not lose you...ever...nor put you in an inferior relational position!

Why Again Do We Fix Our Eyes On Jesus?

- We now know why Jesus endured. That same joy set before him is also set before us.
- So why fix our eyes on Jesus?

- Hebrews 2:5-15
...we are made lower than angels ...putting everything under our feet...yet we don't see everything subject to us
 - He is the only human who made it through death.
 - Who else can we look to for a new resurrection body?
 - The point of the “in Christ” relationship is that you love him as you would anyone close to you relationally.
 - This joy...this truth...creates a longing inside you for the return of Jesus when it is connected to a heart with faith! Hebrews 9:28

- What do we do if we are religious but the love for Jesus Christ is not truly there? ...The eagerness for His return is not present in our hearts?
 - Pray that the Lord would reveal His greatness to you and would create a love for Him in your heart.
 - Then taste and see for yourself.
 - Get with a pastor or mature believer to engage in significant dialog about your situation.
 - They fight for your joy and faith...to endure to the end.
 - (2 Corinthians 1:24) Not that we lord it over your faith, but we work with you for your joy, because it is by faith you stand firm

HEBREWS VIEW OF SALVATION / SANCTIFICATION / DISCIPLESHIP

