

## CHOOSING OUR PATH: SINAI OR ZION

Hebrews 12:18-29

Our [theology] is not best expressed in words; it is expressed in the choices we make ... and the choices we make are ultimately our responsibility.

Eleanor Roosevelt

### Sinai or Zion?

On their life journey they're challenged to

- Faith
- Endurance
- Peaceful response with all
- Holy living
- Godly perspective

### It's not Sinai

Sinai demonstrates

The sheer majesty of God – power without regard to love

The absolute unapproachability of God – untouchable

The pure terror of God – proximity breeds dread

It's Zion – not a dark, foreboding mountain in the desert; but a vibrant, exciting city – Welcome to God's city

A great national holy day with unique participants

Thousands and thousands of angels in celebration

The church of the firstborn duly registered and recognized

To God who judges to Jesus who stands with us and to the blood that speaks for us

Our choice: refuse or receive – follow or don't

Our worship is so great because the blessings are so incredible

Our thanksgiving is so full because the stakes are so high

## Small Group Homework - Week of May 29, 2016

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On Sunday we heard about a pretty incredible celebration that will go on some day in God's presence, and in a sense is going on in our heart right now. Yet we also saw that even though we're on the road to Zion, we still need to be careful not to refuse God's voice. Can you remember a time when God asked you to do something you really didn't want to do? Jot down a few thoughts as to how you felt and what the result was.

### Digging Deeper

1. Let's think about some examples of not listening to God and what the results were.

Jonah 1:1-2 – compare with Jonah 1:4 and 1:17

Matthew 16:21 – compare with Matthew 16:22

Acts 5:1-2 – compare with Acts 5:4-5

2. Read back over Hebrews 12:22-24. Why do those verses give more weight to the warning not to refuse God who speaks to us (in verse 25)?

3. Let's get a little creative: Turn to Revelation 5:9-14. You are there. You've lived your life and made it. You're one of the ones purchased in 5:9-10. Describe the scene and the emotions you're feeling as you are singing. It looks a lot like Hebrews 12:22-24 doesn't it?

4. Can you think of some specific ways you would change if this image was in your life every day? How would it change

Your general outlook when you're struggling?

Your actions?

Your relationship with others?

Your worship of God and your thankfulness to him?