

## Sermon Notes

A Tale of Two Mountains  
Hebrews 12:18- 29

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### **Jesus transforms our encounters with God from experiences of fear to experiences of joy**

If you are living under law and with guilt, then fear is the proper response in an encounter with God

If you are living under grace and in the freedom of Jesus , then Joy is the proper response in an encounter with God

An earthquake is coming, the only safe place to be is in the arms of God.

Do not take God's rescue for granted, respond with thankfulness and worship.

### **Questions for Reflection/Discussion:**

*As always feel free to tweak, skip, or add questions to focus on areas you think most relevant to your group.*

1. Did you ever have to visit the principal's office? What words would you use to characterize that experience?
2. What is helpful and unhelpful with seeing God's heart and responsibilities as similar to a principal?
3. Has there ever been a life situation where you trembled with fear? What was it?
4. Without Jesus, why might God evoke fear in those who encounter Him?
5. Should those with a relationship with Jesus ever fear God? If so in what sense of the word?
6. How is Jesus bringing joy to your life right now?
7. What would you say to a Christian friend who struggles with guilt and fear?
8. Which aspects of life in Zion, do you see as most joyful?
9. Why do you think God is still described as Judge, even in the description of the mountain of joy?
10. The blood of Abel represents the voice of one who has been murdered, what might it be saying? Compare this with what the blood of Jesus is saying?
11. This passage uses danger to motivate people to consider Jesus, is this a tactic we should use today? Why or why not? If so when?
12. How is thankfulness connected with joy?

