

Hebrews 6:13-20, Jesus Is Our Security

3.3.19

When you're climbing mountains like Mount Everest, these things are very, very important...



Tents. Those are the tents at Base Camp, which is located at 17,600 feet up Everest. But, that's not the only place you need them. You need them as you head up the mountain, all along the way. And it's your Sherpa...this guy...



that you pay \$70,000 to take you up that mountain...who sets up your tent for you. Here's a small group of tents tethered together on Everest.



Isn't it interesting that they are tethered together? It reminds me that we need each other to climb the mountain. **But, here's the point...** When a storm breaks out on that mountain...you've got to have a place to crawl into or you'll never survive...On Everest, for instance, because the storms can have winds of over 125 mph and wind chills of up to 80 degrees below zero! And this is particularly true once you get to Camp 5... Because it's at Camp #5 that you have entered the DEATH ZONE. See this image...That's the death zone!



It's at that point up...that you are only about a ½ mile from the top...or to be exact...2,782 feet from the top, (The summit is 29,029 feet).

You see, once you're in the Death Zone, you have to have oxygen from that point on, for the rest of the way. Like this guy...



Because it's in the Death Zone where almost all the 297 climbers who have died on Everest have lost their lives.

It's fascinating what happens in the Death Zone. It's there where the high-altitude causes you to begin losing vital mental functions because of lack of oxygen. You begin to hallucinate without proper oxygen. In fact, it's been reported that some who have died, started removing their clothes because their brain was telling them the extreme cold was actually "heat" they were feeling. And it's all because you are literally using oxygen faster than you can replenish it. At that altitude (over 4 ½ miles up) you're only taking in about 30% of the oxygen you need to live. And what is more...if you were to die in the Death Zone, your body is likely going to be left there (unless someone else can drag it back to Base Camp 5), because helicopters can't fly in air that thin.

You say, well isn't this a lovely and happy way to begin the message this morning! Well, I don't mean to be morbid...but, I want to make the point crystal clear...on Everest, without oxygen you're doomed...YES...but what is often forgotten, is that without a tent...



you could also be doomed. That tent could be your life-saver for sure!

Now you may be thinking? What does all of this have to do with our study in Hebrews? Well, the answer is that it has everything to do with Hebrews AND our journey together climbing mountains...and so today we'll pick up where we left off last week as when we saw...



“THE BETTER THINGS OF FOLLOWING JESUS!” Well, today we’re going to go up the mountain even further and see that: “Jesus Is Our TENT-our Security.” Follow along w/me...

Hebrews 6:13-20

¹³ For when God made a promise to Abraham, since he had no one greater by whom to swear, he swore by himself, ¹⁴ saying, “Surely I will bless you and multiply you.” ¹⁵ And thus Abraham, having patiently waited, obtained the promise. ¹⁶ For people swear by something greater than themselves, and in all their disputes an oath is final for confirmation. ¹⁷ So when God desired to show more convincingly to the heirs of the promise the unchangeable character of his purpose, he guaranteed it with an oath, ¹⁸ so that by two unchangeable things, in which it is impossible for God to lie, we who have fled for refuge might have strong encouragement to hold fast to the hope set before us. ¹⁹ We have this as a sure and steadfast anchor of the soul, a hope that enters into the inner place behind the curtain, ²⁰ where Jesus has gone as a forerunner on our behalf, having become a high priest forever after the order of Melchizedek.

Did you see that name, “Melchizedek?” Wasn’t that the issue that cause the Apostle Paul to pull off from his teaching and give this “parenthesis” about Jesus being the Great High Priest? Yes...that’s exactly where he pulled off. Remember, back in chapter 5, Paul was teaching these Jews, now turned Christians, that they didn’t need one of these anymore...



That’s an image of a High Priest. He reminded them they had a better High Priest...Jesus Christ...because He was the one who conquered death, not with the blood of animals...but, by His own blood. But, apparently, some of these Jews couldn’t get it. They were struggling to understand, and so Paul described the fact that there were some who had become so “dull of hearing” that he was afraid they were not even born again.

These would be like the toothpick tasters at Sam’s Club...



Folks who wouldn't pay the \$4.87/lb. There were obviously Jews who had seen and even tasted of all that Jesus was doing in the lives of their friends and neighbors and even family members, but some were walking away. But, Paul reminded the believers to **STAY THE COURSE!** Don't **LEAVE THE MOUNTAIN...**climb...because there are better things for the saved... Look back at verse 11 with me.

Hebrews 6:11-12

¹¹ And we desire each one of you to show the same earnestness to have the full assurance of hope until the end, ¹² so that you may not be sluggish, but imitators of those who through faith and patience inherit the promises.

And what are these promises...God's **PROMISES**...His covenant promises made by Him to us! We can trust Him in what He says... That's verses 13-15...

Hebrews 6:13-15

¹³ For when God made a promise to Abraham, since he had no one greater by whom to swear, he swore by himself, ¹⁴ saying, "Surely I will bless you and multiply you." ¹⁵ And thus Abraham, having patiently waited, obtained the promise.

Once again, Paul goes back to the Jews own history...to one of their greatest heroes: Abraham, the Father of their faith...as the example of they we can trust God's promises. You see, for the Jew, Abraham was like George Washington is to us. Let me show you this. Let me tell you, this is the chapter which describes Abraham's quintessential moment in trusting God.



Abraham went up Mount Moriah and was prepared to sacrifice his son, but the Lord stopped him when He saw that Abraham was obedient to His command. And so, we get to **verse 15**.

Genesis 22:15-18

¹⁵ And the angel of the Lord called to Abraham a second time from heaven ¹⁶ and said, “By myself I have sworn, declares the Lord, because you have done this and have not withheld your son, your only son, ¹⁷ I will surely bless you, and I will surely multiply your offspring as the stars of heaven and as the sand that is on the seashore. And your offspring shall possess the gate of his enemies, ¹⁸ and in your offspring shall all the nations of the earth be blessed, because you have obeyed my voice.”

Abraham believed in God and he showed tremendous faith! A faith that is really mind-boggling to me! He trusted God! He took Him at His Word! And remember, he had already shown great faith when he left his homeland in the first place. Remember where he was from?



See SUMER? Look right below it... Abraham was from a town called Ur. And **God told him to leave UR** and go where...well...he didn't tell him exactly where to go. **Go back to Hebrews...but go to Hebrews 11** to the Hall of Faith...Hebrews 11. Vs 8.

Hebrews 11:8-9

⁸ By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to a place that he was to receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going. ⁹ By faith he went to live in the land of promise, as in a foreign land, living in tents with Isaac and Jacob, heirs with him of the same promise.

What's the point? Abraham obeyed. And what does obedience mean? It means we place trust in the person we're obeying or following...you place trust, honor, reverence for that person. Like obeying the traffic laws or children obeying their parents. Let me show you another place that describes this...

Turn to James chapter 2. James the half-brother of Jesus... It's the next book...just keep going right in your Bibles about 10 or 12 more pages... Remember what we saw last week...we saw land that produced a crop of fruit, versus land that produced nothing but thorns and thistles. **Look at verse 18.**

James 2:18-24

¹⁸ But someone will say, “You have faith and I have works.” Show me your faith apart from your works, and I will show you my faith by my works. ¹⁹ You believe that God is one; you do well. Even the demons believe—and shudder! ²⁰ Do you want to be shown, you foolish person, that faith

apart from works is useless? ²¹ Was not Abraham our father justified by works when he offered up his son Isaac on the altar? ²² You see that faith was active along with his works, and faith was completed by his works; ²³ and the Scripture was fulfilled that says, “Abraham believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness”—and he was called a friend of God. ²⁴ You see that a person is justified by works and not by faith alone.

Abraham showed he believed...by his actions. And guess what...when you trust Jesus...you too show this by your actions that you have become a part of the family of God...Abraham's family:

Galatians 3:29

²⁹ And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to promise.

Let me ask you something. Are you showing faith and trust in the Lord today? You say, “I’m no Abraham. I don’t have that kind of faith!” Listen, he was a nobody. He was raised by a pagan father, named Terah, who worshipped false gods and Abraham had done nothing to warrant God choosing him, through whom the Messiah would come. God came to him and made the offer and then it was on Abraham to obey. Would he do what God asked him to do? He did! He left Ur and he was willing to sacrifice Isaac. And neither one made any sense. And that’s usually how Jesus works in our lives.

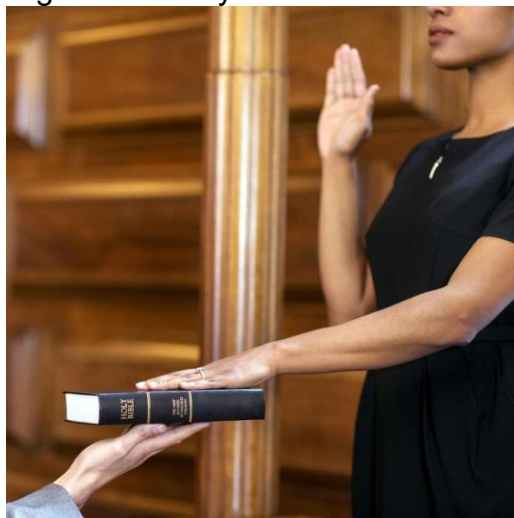
Let me ask you something else. Today...are you showing trust in Jesus? Is He asking you to have faith about something and you are struggling to see? Are you afraid to leave UR? Are you afraid to raise the knife... Is it taking longer than you expected? Remember, God told Abraham he was going to have a son and it took 25 years for that to happen. Abraham was 75 and waited until he was 100 to see the promise fulfilled. Some of you feel like you’ve been waiting for a long time on God. Has it been 25 years? Just trust Him! He can be trusted! You can take Him at His word...to keep promises!

Now go back to Hebrews 6. Let’s see where Paul used this phrase about God’s promise and oath to Abraham, where God swore by HIMSELF...

Hebrews 6:16

¹⁶ For people swear by something greater than themselves, and in all their disputes an oath is final for confirmation.

Why did God swear by His own name? Simple. When you make an oath, you take an oath and swear on something or someone greater than you are. Like this...



You're in court and you are asked to take an oath and you put your hand on the Bible, AN AUTHORITY greater than you are and you swear to: "Tell the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth, so help you_____." Who? GOD! You have sworn on someone higher than yourself. But, if you are God, who is higher? No one!

Hebrews 6:17-18

¹⁷ So when God desired to show more convincingly to the heirs of the promise the unchangeable character of his purpose, he guaranteed it with an oath, ¹⁸ so that by two unchangeable things, in which it is impossible for God to lie, we who have fled for refuge might have strong encouragement to hold fast to the hope set before us.

Listen the odds of God telling a lie is the same odds of you flapping your arms and flying to the moon. It can't happen! It won't happen! It's impossible! God cannot tell a lie! By His very nature...by His very character...has no ability to lie or even contradict Himself. That's why it blows my mind that people no longer think the Bible applies to today. It's His unchangeable Word and it's true AND GOD IS NOT DUMB! He stands outside of time and His truth NEVER CHANGES and it should NEVER be compromised because of the cultural stance of they day. His promises are true and secure! He is the source of truth and we can run to Him and His truth! He is our refuge...like this tent...

Remember the Sherpa?



He's the one that leads you up to the Summit of Everest. He's the one that pitches your tent if a storm brews up on the mountain...and you hide in it...you TAKE REFUGE in it and you hold fast until the storm passes by.

Watch verse 19 and see the beauty of this...and pay attention to a new symbol Paul mentions...

Hebrews 6:19

¹⁹ We have this as a sure and steadfast anchor of the soul, a hope that enters into the inner place behind the curtain.

I know you know about the fish symbol. Have you seen these on vehicles or maybe you have one:

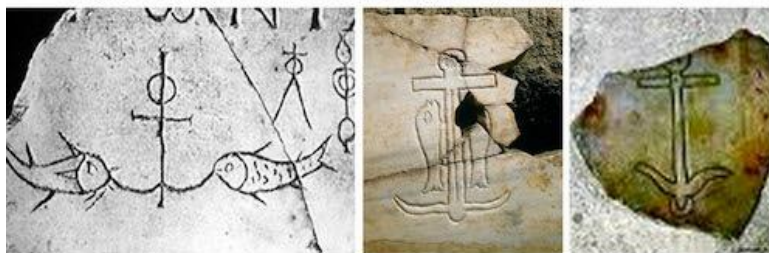


That fish symbol comes from the Greek word: **Ichthys**, (**pronounced: IK-TIES**) and it means: "Jesus Christ, Son of God, Savior."



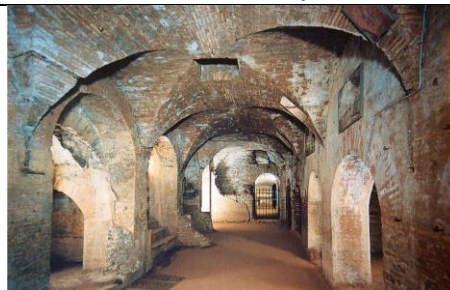
It's a reminder of what Jesus said: "I will make you fishers of men." But here in verse 19, we see the words: "steadfast anchor." Did you know for the first century Christians, who faced tremendous persecution...they often used both in communicating to one another that they were Christians? Take a look at these pictures. They were taken from the catacombs in Rome.

Catacomb carvings: Early Christian tombs often showed an anchor.



We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure. (Hebrews 6:17)

Notice the picture in the middle and to the right...notice how the anchor is shaped like a cross near the top. These anchors were found in the first century catacombs that I mentioned a moment ago in Rome. See this picture...



Because of intense Roman persecution. Did you know that? Many Christians were forced underground to these catacombs. Remember, Nero was throwing Christians to the lions in the Coliseum and burning Christians at the stake. There's about 200 miles of catacombs under the Roman streets where Christians fled and it's in these catacombs,



they would bury their dead (because they were not allowed to own land in the city). And so, they've found anchors there...see another picture from the catacombs...



those anchors were symbols that encouraged the believers to remember that Jesus is “the steadfast anchor of the soul.” See it again...

Hebrews 6:19-20

¹⁹We have this as a sure and steadfast anchor of the soul, a hope that enters into the inner place behind the curtain. ²⁰where Jesus has gone as a forerunner on our behalf, having become a high priest forever after the order of Melchizedek.

And so we're back to Melchizedek...after pulling off for an entire chapter to set things straight...here we are back to the idea of the High Priest in the Temple... See it...what's he getting ready to do?



He's going behind the curtain to pour out the blood of a lamb on the ark of the covenant to make atonement for the sin of the people. But, that was the blood of an animal...and that could only cover sin...it couldn't erase it... No...



He had to come and shed His blood, the Lamb of God, to take away the sins of those who would receive Him. CLIMB IN THE TENT. And church, what happened to the curtain in the Temple? It tore into. Jesus opened the way to God and because of that:

Hebrews 10:19-21

¹⁹ Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the holy places by the blood of Jesus, ²⁰ by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain, that is, through his flesh, ²¹ and since we have a great priest over the house of God.

Jesus is our forerunner...He's the Sherpa in the tent! He is our security...our safety in the storm.

I close with this... There are the stories of men back in the days of the seafaring mariners that describe ships that couldn't make it to the shore because of dense fog in rocky, hazardous waters...

So, the captain would call for a volunteer to swim with a tow rope through the murky waters to shore. That courageous man would do just that...He would jump in...navigate his way through the rocks and whatever else that was unseen below and find a safe way for the captain and his mates to come to shore. Once he arrived...he would tug the rope and the man on the other end on the boat would feel it. No...he couldn't see him...but, he'd feel the tag... He'd say, **"It's safe...He made it...this is the way!"**

Listen carefully...Jesus is not on a shoreline, and He's not even in a tent... He's in heaven...and He's made the way for you to come there too...He's tugging the rope of your heart and He says, "It's safe...I'm the way! Follow me!" **Jesus is our Security**... Come to Him today!
