

## Hebrews 10:19-25, “Stirring Up Good”

5.12.19

This morning, as we dedicate these precious children to the Lord, we’re asking His blessing and favor upon them. Now, it’s important for us to understand that **what** we’re doing is in NO WAY imparting salvation to these children; however, we are already praying for the day when these children will come to the age that they understand who Jesus Christ is and that they will surrender and receive Him by faith into their lives.

The Bible says in **Psalm 127:3**, “Behold, children are a heritage from the Lord, the fruit of the womb a reward.” And indeed, these children are a reward from the Lord to these families. Today, we dedicate these beautiful children **just as Joseph and Mary** dedicated Jesus to God the Father on the eighth day in the Temple as recorded in Luke 2.

**Parents**, I’m going to read five areas of commitment that we encourage you to commit to in your homes in raising your child. Would you listen to these and consider them carefully:

1. Commit to be a Godly parent and to be a learner and disciple of Jesus Christ, so that you may disciple your child in God’s ways
2. Commit to pray for your child and their salvation daily
3. Commit to keep your child in fellowship with this or another church throughout their lifetime while in your home
4. Commit to orchestrate your life and your lifestyle so that you are intentional in making Jesus and His kingdom the priority in the life of your child and not the things of this world
5. Commit to make your home a holy place, where you can claim with Joshua: “As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.”

Parents, if you are willing to commit, to the best of your ability, with the help of the Holy Spirit to do these things, would you now say: “**WE DO.**” Thank you so much.

Now, I want to ask the families to place their hands on their child as we pray and dedicate these precious ones to the Lord. **Let us pray!**

May we give these families a hand for the commitments they have made today!

In May of 1996, Rob Hall, the man pictured on the screens, in the purple jacket, with the white hat and beard, in the middle on the front row...Rob Hall...



...died on Mount Everest. He was one of the greatest mountain guides in the world. He had summited Everest 5 times; and yet, on May 10<sup>th</sup> 1996 he, along with three other people in that picture died. As was reported in various news agencies, just before their deaths, rescue attempts

were made by three other climbing groups. One of the teams was a South African team. They ditched their bid to summit Everest by giving up their supplement oxygen tanks to help the rescue parties attempt to save Hall and his team members. Unfortunately, and might I say, unbelievably, one climbing team, a team from Japan, refused to help. Their leader/guide said his team members had, "Paid too much money to turn back from their attempt..." And they summited Everest the next day.

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Take a look at the screens... Rob Hall and his team members were stuck between the summit (the top of Everest) and Camp 4. See the picture...



At 8,000 meters or approximately 26,000 feet, you enter the Death Zone, where your body is only receiving about 1/3 of the oxygen it needs to survive. Hall's team had left at midnight on May 10, 1996 and sought to traverse the remaining 3,000 feet to the top. They made it! They summited! But, as I've told you...getting up to the top of Everest is not what kills you...it's getting down. Because, you see, on the way down a fierce blizzard struck... They radioed to base camp that is was like trying to see through milk. That blizzard brought winds that created catastrophic wind chill values of 100 below zero. Climbers from the other teams tried their best to get to the four climbers from Hall's team, but they couldn't and thus, tragedy struck the mountain of Everest.

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I'll tell you...I personally (in reading about this tragedy) was struck by the two opposing reactions to this life-threatening emergency. Three teams said, "We'll try to help," while one team said, "No...it's not to our advantage." Three teams sought to do good...another team sought to do nothing. What would you have done? Would you have abandoned your attempt to summit Everest? You would have spent \$75,000 (that's what it cost in 1996 to summit Everest)...AND you would have invested a month on that mountain trying to acclimatize so you wouldn't die in thin air at the ROOFTOP OF THE WORLD. What would you have done? I mean you are within 3,000 feet of your goal? Look at how close you are...



Wow!!! What do you do? Do you help, or look the other way? The title of this morning's message is: **"Stirring Up Good."**



Three teams on Everest stirred up good for their fellow climbers... One team...stirred up trouble. The Apostle Paul in writing to Jews turned Christians in the first century encouraged them to STIR UP GOOD! He encouraged them to think of one another, and consider how to they might spur one another on toward love and good deeds.

**Hebrews 10:19-25**

<sup>19</sup>Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the holy places by the blood of Jesus, <sup>20</sup>by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain, that is, through his flesh, <sup>21</sup>and since we have a great priest over the house of God, <sup>22</sup>let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. <sup>23</sup>Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful. <sup>24</sup>And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, <sup>25</sup>not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.

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We have now reached what is called the "Summary Section" of Hebrews. It's almost like reaching the top of the mountain and looking back down from where you've come... Like this man...



He took a selfie looking down Everest. That's Yuichiro Miura (You-Cheerio ME-Your-ah) The oldest man to ever climb Everest. He was 80 years old. (May 23, 2013) And get this... prior to climbing Everest, he had four operations for arrhythmia since 2008, not to mention that he also had a history of diabetes and hypertension. How about that!

He had come long way...literally and figuratively. AND so had the first century Jews to whom the Apostle Paul was writing. And now they're looking back down the mountain...seeing from where they had climbed. For 9 chapters, the Apostle Paul has made the case that Jesus Christ is Supreme over everything these Jews had ever known. Jesus is the fulfillment of the Old Testament. He is the reality of the shadow that had been cast by the Old Testament prior to His coming to earth. And for 9 chapters, Paul has detailed why the reality is better than the shadow, and last week, whether you realized it or not, we summited the book of Hebrews and now we look back and see where we've been. And we see this by way of the six verse we just read

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Without question, this is a SUMMARY because we see the words, "therefore and since." Those are "summary words" and they are used three times in three verses (19-21). The summary is this: because of Jesus...the human heart can draw near to God, and can do so confidently...not in fear...but, like saw last week...in relief...coming into His presence falling at His feet in relief, because He paid the price for our sin with His own blood and we can come and rest in Him. See it again...

### **Hebrews 10:19-21**

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

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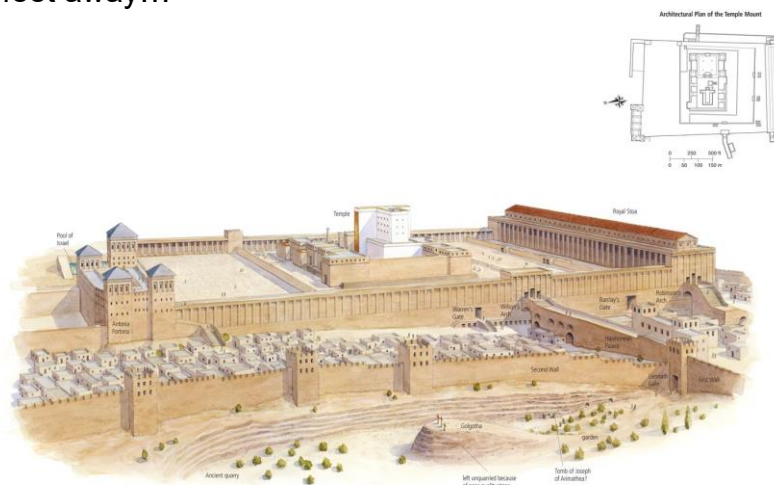
Do you see the imagery...the curtain of his flesh. See the screens? What is that?



In the Temple, just behind the Altar of Incense is the Veil...the curtain that separated every single human being on the face of the earth from the presence of God, except one man, on one day of the year. And Who was that man? Who was the only man who could go through that curtain, into the Holy of Holies? The High Priest on the Day of Atonement, Yom Kippur.

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Now listen carefully and be reminded as you look at the screens, when Jesus Christ died on Calvary, about 2,000 feet away...



The Temple veil tore from top to bottom. Do you see it? See Golgotha/Calvary, at the bottom of the map. And you'll see the Temple, in white, rising in the background. When Jesus died outside the city walls of Jerusalem, less than 2,000 feet away, that curtain in that Temple tore from top to bottom...See the depiction on the screens:

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Hebrews 10 describes the tearing of not the curtain...but Jesus' flesh. Think of it: Jesus made a way to God through His broken body and poured out blood. We'll celebrate that next week as we

have communion. You see, by Jesus' death on the cross, the price was paid for your sin and my sin so that we might come to God... No, we don't have to go through a priest or through preacher...NO...we come to God through Jesus! That's why He said, "I am the way, the truth and the life and no one comes to the Father except through me!"

Do you see church...because of Jesus, when we surrender our lives to Him...we can come boldly into the presence of God. And that's why Paul says, "draw near" to those who had yet to come to Christ...to be saved. See it in verse 22...that's what "draw near" means...it means to come to Jesus in belief...it's what we must do to be saved...

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### **Hebrews 10:22**

**<sup>22</sup> let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water.**

BTW...we just saw the first "Let us" in verse 22. There are also two other "let us" found in verse 23 and verse 24. Three admonitions...encouragements to DO SOMETHING... Let us!!! In others, "Let's do this." **It's like** making up your mind to leave camp 4 and summit Everest. It's time! Let's go!

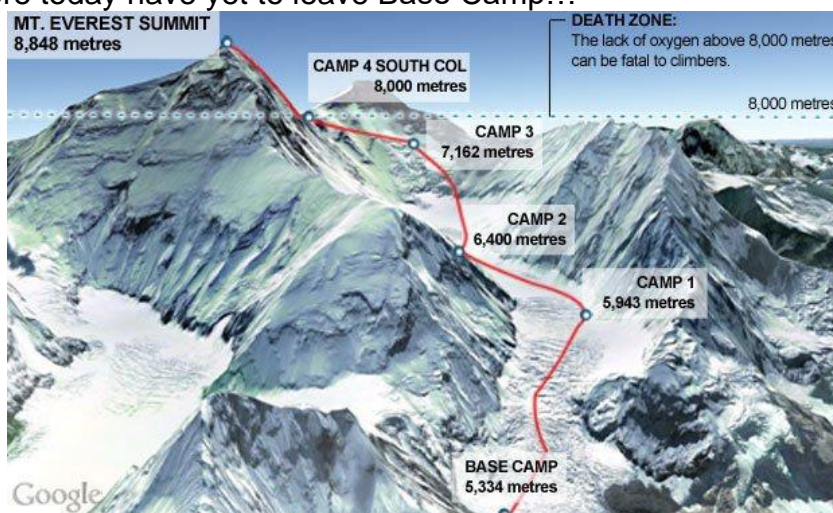
This first "Let us" is a call to "Draw near." It's an appeal to come to Jesus. Be saved. How? Through Jesus! Because He opened up the way through His flesh to God. Come...in confidence, in full assurance that you won't be turned away! Why? Because you have been cleansed by the blood of Jesus, which washes you clean of your sin and the guilty conscience that comes with sin.

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Do you see what Paul was saying to those who had yet to come to Jesus in faith? He said, "You can come into the Holy of Holies...the real one...the heavenly one...where God sits...and you do so through Jesus by faith in Him. But you see, this is a fantastic, almost unbelievable, statement to a Jew because to a Jew, entering into the holy of holies was absolutely forbidden of anyone except the High Priest. If a Jew ever tried to go into the Holy of Holies, he would have dropped dead on the spot. No Jew would ever conceive of going into the Holy of Holies. But, when Jesus came...the veil was torn and the door to God that had been slammed shut by Adam and Eve because of sin, was opened again by Jesus and He said, "Come!" Verse 22 is a call to salvation. Are you saved?"

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Oh, some of you here today have yet to leave Base Camp...



You've not even started the journey. You've not made up your mind to climb. Hear it again, "LET US DRAW NEAR!" Oh, this takes faith...It takes faith to leave the security and comfort of base camp. It's safe there! There's air to breathe...there's food...there's little exposure...little danger. There's safety. Or, so you think!

Using our analogy of climbing...staying put at Base Camp is trusting in the things of this world...the security found in this life...trusting in yourself, your money, possessions, people, things, stuff...that won't get you to heaven. That won't get you to the mountain-top of God. Do you know what Base Camp gets you? Nothing. No glory, no honor! At Base Camp all you get is you and your stuff. And you are without God. And here's the problem, if you never leave Base Camp and choose Jesus...you will die in your sins and you will be separated from God forever in a horrible place called Hell. A place never intended for humanity, but only the devil and his rebellious demons. Oh, LET US DRAW NEAR!!!

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So, I'll ask you! Have you left Base Camp? Have you been saved? Have you surrendered your life to Jesus? Have you trusted Him and drawn near, by faith??? You can. Right now, at this very moment...right where you sit...you can simply believe. Believe that Jesus died on the cross and God raised Him from the dead. Believe and have faith, and call on His name in repentance of your sin and confess with your mouth that you are giving your soul, your life, your everything to Jesus...and then, you can be saved. Oh, DRAW NEAR to God while there's still time...

And listen, if you're not sure you are saved or you would like to talk about it...come see me after the service, right back there in that little room and we'll talk...okay...??

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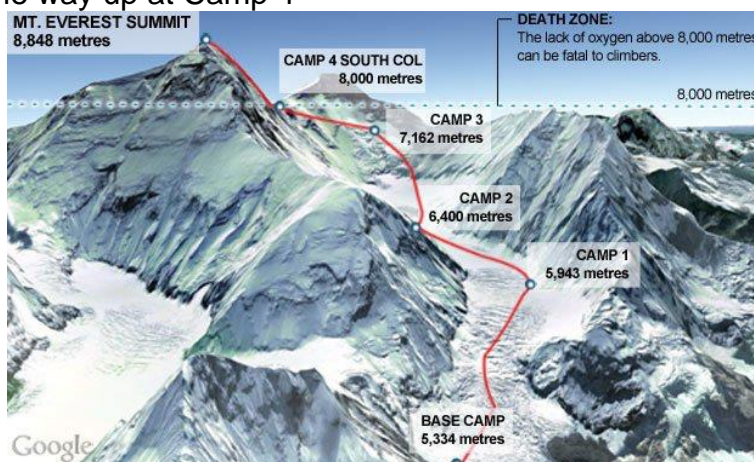
LET US DRAW NEAR... That's group #1 and NOW, group #2: "Let us hold fast..."

### **Hebrews 10:23**

**<sup>23</sup> Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful.**

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Can you sense that there has been some struggle among these new believers? Paul said, "WITHOUT WAVERING." What does that mean? Huh? Some have been wavering! The first "Let us" was to the lost, the unsaved. The second "Let us" was for the struggling believer. Do we have any of those in the room today? Struggling believers. We've all been there. You might be there today. Struggling. Uncertain. Fearful. Wavering. This passage is an encouragement for those believers who are all the way up at Camp 4



and there's a bad storm...with 100 degree below zero wind chill. This is a "Hang in there! Don't lose hope" message. Hey Christian...remember who is hunkered down in the tent with you? Jesus! And remember what He said:

**John 16:33**

<sup>33</sup>I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world."

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Oh dear Christian, when Jesus is in the tent, it doesn't matter what's happening outside. We can be at peace. We don't have to focus on the storm...instead, we focus on Him. And I believe somebody needed to be reminded of that fact today. Get your focus back on Jesus. You've surrendered your life to Him...but maybe lately, your eyes and ears have been fixed on the storm. Look to Jesus. Be reminded of His words, "Take heart, I have overcome the world."

**And now, Hebrews 10:24, the third and final group...the "Stir up" group!**

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**Hebrews 10:24-25**

<sup>24</sup>And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, <sup>25</sup>not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.

Did you notice the word, "Consider" in verse 24? It means to "fix one's eyes upon." That's what we were just talking about... Focusing on Jesus. And once we've done that...we can help and encourage others. We can help others to, as verse 24 says, CONSIDER Him... Once we get our focus on Jesus we can stir up others to do the same. We'll be willing, like the South African climbers, in May of 1996 on Everest, to give up some of our oxygen...so that others might be helped.

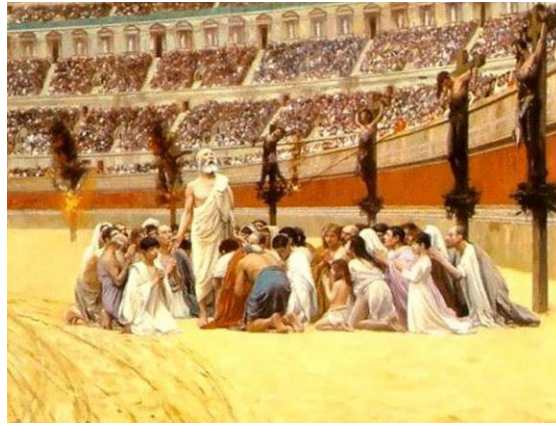
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You see, when this letter was written in the first century, there was a storm raging. It wasn't blizzard caused by snow...it was a blizzard of hate and persecution caused by Rome and the wicked Emperor Nero. And it was hard! Remember, they were hiding out...



in the catacombs under the streets of Rome. And because of this persecution, some were no longer meeting together. THEY WERE AFRAID! Nero was taking Christians...





and using them as scapegoats for his many political blunders...and he was burning them at the stake and feeding them to the lions. Would you have been afraid to go to a house church? Potentially be discovered and turned in and fed to lions? Nonetheless, the Holy Spirit, through Paul, was encouraging the believers to keep meeting together. Listen, Christianity is not just individual thing...it is that to the degree you get saved...but, Christianity is a communal thing. We are a community. We are a household, an oikos. For those first century Christians under severe persecution, it might have been in secret...underground in the catacombs...but, they were encouraged: don't stop meeting together! You need one another!

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Christian, we need each other. We need the fellowship so that we can mutually strengthen each other, and we need to encourage each other to remain steadfast when times are hard. Hey church, can I ask you this (I'll probably be stepping on toes ☺) are we facing persecution like those first-century believers? Are we being burned at the stake? No.

And yet, it's amazing, church attendance among Christians, continues to drop year after year. Today, according to Barna Research, the average Christian only attends church 2-3 Sundays a month. Whereas, just 20 years ago, a regular attender, came to church 3-4 Sundays a month. Is it because of persecution that Christians don't come to church? No, we must be honest...it's prosperity. It's laziness. It's a lack of commitment. It's a lack of dedication and love for Jesus. It seems many Christians today are headed back down to the security and comfort of Base Camp.

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Church family...we need each and we need to meet together. This is Scripture folks. Unless you and I are providentially hindered, in other words, we're out of town or sick...we need to be here. And again, that's not me saying that...that's the Word of God saying that in verses 24 and 25.

And let me tell you something else. It's awfully hard to encourage one another in a service like this. Honestly, with three services, we don't give you a lot of time to "encourage, fellowship, stir one another up to love and good works." But, I know when you can do that better. You can do that much more on Wed. night when we have meal together and things are laid back a bit more...there isn't as much time pressure. Did you know the first church had a meal together every Sunday? The book of Acts tells us so. You know what else...you can get involved in a SS class. That's wonderful fellowship and you could use the extra time in the Bible. We can never get enough time in the Bible.

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You might say, "Which SS class should I attend?" Well, ask somebody! I guarantee within 15 feet of you is someone who attends a SS class. We've got all kinds of classes...and you probably know of someone who attends a class...and you so...you just need to make up your mind and go. Get

out of the tent...get climbing...get encouraging...get stirring up souls. And you know what else...it'll become a habit. Did you see that in verse 25...a habit...

**Hebrews 10:25**

<sup>25</sup> not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.

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Listen, and we're done. I know it's nothing malicious on your part for not being more involved or even simply being more consistent in being here. It just happens. It becomes a habit. And that "habit" is the wrong kind of habit. It's easy to miss and make excuses. Hey, Christian, I want you to grow. I want you to consider Jesus...focus on Jesus...because that's the best way to live. Climbing not sitting at Base Camp.

Do you see what I've been trying to do today...trying to stir you up for good. May we do that for each other. Encourage one another. Love one another. Stir up one another for Jesus!

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