

The Ascent... Mountain of Hope

In the Bible, mountains are often more than just geographical features. Throughout Scripture, God often meets His people in high places. But, here is the truth we often overlook—while the view from the summit is often breathtaking...transformation happens during the climb. Whether it's Mount Sinai, Moriah, or Calvary, the ascent requires effort and a singular focus on the One we are climbing to meet.

We will explore these pivotal mountain encounters where we will see that while the terrain may be difficult...the view of God from the summit changes everything. This series isn't just about geographical peaks it's about the spiritual journey as we rise above the noise of the world to hear the voice of the Father.

We've climbed Mount Moriah with Abraham, felt the thunder on Mount Sinai with Moses, and stood in awe of God on Mount Carmel. Last week, we witnessed the blinding glory of the Transfiguration. Today, we lace up our boots one last time as we climb the Mount of Olives in searching for evidence of eternal Hope.

The Peak of Preparation: A Pattern of Prayer

23 And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up on the mountain by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, Matthew 14:23

12 In these days he went out to the mountain to pray, and all night he continued in prayer to God. Luke 6:12

If the Son of God needed to "ascend" to hear the Father's voice, how much more do we?

The Peak of Purpose: The Struggle of Faith

39 And he came out and went, as was his custom, to the Mount of Olives, and the disciples followed him. 40 And when he came to the place, he said to them, "Pray that you may not enter into temptation." 41 And he withdrew from them about a stone's throw, and knelt down and prayed, 42 saying, "Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me. Nevertheless, not my will, but yours, be done." 43 And there appeared to him an angel from heaven, strengthening him. 44 And being in agony he prayed more earnestly; and his sweat became like great drops of blood falling down to the ground.[a] 45 And when he rose from prayer, he came to the disciples and found them sleeping for sorrow, 46 and he said to them, "Why are you sleeping? Rise and pray that you may not enter into temptation." Luke 22:29-46

The Mount of Olives is where the "Yes" of the Garden secured the "Victory" of the Cross. You cannot have the Empty Tomb without that night in the olive grove.

The Peak of Promise: The Ascension and Return

9 And when he had said these things, as they were looking on, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. 10 And while they were gazing into heaven as he went, behold, two men stood by them in white robes, 11 and said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into heaven? This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.” Acts 1:9-11

4 On that day his feet shall stand on the Mount of Olives that lies before Jerusalem on the east, and the Mount of Olives shall be split in two from east to west by a very wide valley, so that one half of the Mount shall move northward, and the other half southward. Zechariah 14:4

The Mount of Olives turns our gaze upward. And, we aren't just looking back at a sacrificed Savior...we are looking forward and up for a returning King.

Your highest moments of faith will often evolve from your deepest moments of surrender. It's time...

The Second Mile: *Going Beyond Sunday*

Let's dig deeper together to see how God is calling and equipping each of us to reach the lost.

Monday – Jesus often separated Himself from the group and climbed to a high, quiet place to be with His Father. Where do you find yourself alone with God? Find that meeting place.

Tuesday – Jesus used His time alone with God for peace and direction as His purpose drew nearer. How can your time at the “summit” with God bless you in the peaks and valleys of life?

Wednesday – Jesus found Himself at a pivotal moment in the Garden of Gethsemane. He had to choose and it was the toughest choice ever. What is God asking you to choose today?

Thursday – It was in the “yes” that Jesus resolved to complete the work He had been sent to do. This gave Him peace until the end. What choices loom that burden you? Choose God, find peace.

Friday – From the same mountain where God tested Abraham, God sacrificed His only Son. From that same summit Jesus ascended into Heaven and ultimately return. That's a promise. How can God's Holy Spirit give you peace today while we wait for Christ's return?