

The Mountain Top
Exodus 19:18-20
By Russell Earl

Thesis: I want to show how the Christian can get to the mountain top with God and only with Him.

- Intro:
1. Every journey begins with the first step.
 2. Before one can even take their first step to the mountain top several things must take place.
 2. Today the “mountain top” is figurative of the heavenly home that awaits the faithful.

I. What must be left behind before the climb.

A. Sinful pleasures

1. It is important to note that all pleasures are not left behind, **ONLY** the sinful pleasures.
2. Sadly many will never reach the mountain top because of their unwillingness to leave behind sinful pleasures. (**Phil 3:13-14**)

B. Selfishness

1. One cannot begin the climb if they are not willing to let God guide them on the climb.
 - a. Unless one truly understands **Jer 10:23**, they will never know the importance of God being their guide.
2. Until one chooses to follow God & obey His word they will never begin the ascent to the top of the mountain.

II. What you must have to begin the climb.

A. Obedience & Loyalty

1. By being obedient to God, He blesses us (**Eph 1:3**).
2. Loyalty to God & disloyalty to Him have results.

B. Faith & Trust

1. Faith in God is another necessity if one is to reach the mountain top.
 - a. No one ever reaches the top alone, one reaches the top with God (**Jer 20:11**)
2. God is with us, not merely waiting for us to join Him at the top.
 - a. He lifts us from where we are and, with obedience to Him, takes us to where we need to be. (**Ps 69:14-15**)

C. Determination

1. A person must have determination to reach the top of God’s mountain.
2. One doesn’t get to the top out of chance, but out of determination.
 - a. We must have a mind of determination (**Neh 4:6**).
 - i. They had a mind to work, in like manner we must have a determined mind to be faithful to God.
 - b. A “undetermined” person will never reach the mountain top.

III. Lessons for us today.

A. Things left behind for God.

1. Unfaithfulness, indifference & selfishness all are things that must be left at the base of the mountain.

3. There are many today who are only loitering at the bottom of the mountain because they lack the desire and faith to move up the mountain with God (**Eph 5:14-16**)
- B. Failing to reach the mountain is man's own fault.
 1. Man is condemned by their own actions & non-actions (**Pro 11:5-6**).
 2. If man fails to reach heaven, there is no one to blame but himself (**Ezk 18:19-20**)

Application & Conclusion:

1. Are you willing to leave behind all to reach God's mountain top? (**Mt 16:24**)
2. Man would be wise to remember the consequences of failure.
 - a. They are eternal in nature.
3. Full Invitation

Non-Christians must:

Hear – James 1:22, Romans 10:15,17

Believe – Jn 12:44, Jn 8:24, Mt 16:16

Repent – Luke 13:2-3

Confess – John 12:42, Romans 10:9

Be Baptized – 1 Pt 3:21, Acts 22:16, Col 2:11, Mk 16:16, Rom 6:3-4

Live faithfully – John 14:15, Rev 2:10

Christians must:

Repent: Acts 17:20, Acts 8:37, Lk 13:3

Pray: James 5:16, 1 Jn 1:9