

**A Kingdom that Cannot be Shaken | Hebrews 12:18-29**  
**Pastor Kory**

If you have your Bibles, go to Hebrews chapter 12—that's where we're gonna be.

I heard a commentator say a few days ago that basketball is a game of inches. Inches determine joy or misery, right? Victory or defeat—it's measured in inches.

Let me give you an example.

We went over to the Taylors' house on Friday morning to watch the Cats game. A lot of you probably saw it. And man—it was the good and the bad.

Then at the end... it was not looking good at all.

There are about 40 of us crammed into their living room, all watching as it comes down. Here's Santa Clara—they're coming down. Surely it's a tie game. They can't hit this shot.

And then he hits the three.

And all of us just look like we lost someone. Just pure misery. Game over. Season over.

March Madness is not the same. We're collectively mourning.

Then 2.4 seconds later—Oweh gets the outlet pass, goes down, half-court shot—no chance, no prayer. It goes up... bank shot... in.

**An inch.**

And just like that, the same group that was mourning—we're going nuts. Jumping, high-fiving. We don't even realize it's tied—we think we won. Then we have to settle back in like, oh yeah... overtime.

But that's how it is—**inches between loss and victory, misery and joy.**

If you watched the Vandy game—same thing. Chance to win, throws it up... not even an inch. Hits the backboard, spins around, comes out. If that drops, they go crazy. Instead, everybody goes home.

That's how tight it is.

**It's a game of inches.**

And brackets? Totally unstable. You pick a team, you think they're gonna win—and they don't.

Everything's a little shaky.

And if we're honest, life is like that too.

**Life is a game of inches.**

One moment everything's great—awesome life, awesome day—and then that thing happens. You get the call. You get the news. And in a moment, everything changes.

What felt stable and secure—like nothing could touch it—suddenly it's shaking. Your whole world feels like it's falling apart.

And it happens fast.

Some of you experienced that this week. Some of you will this week. A moment where everything changes.

So what do you do when life shakes?

What do you do when your world shakes?

What do you do when you shake?

**You hold on to something that cannot shake.**

And that is the kingdom of God.

That's what we're talking about today—a kingdom that cannot be shaken from Hebrews 12. Because if you're holding onto anything else as your foundation—your security, your hope, your joy—eventually it's going to shake.

And when it does, you'll realize:

**You were holding on to the wrong thing.**

You should've been holding on to Jesus. Because if you hold on to Him, you can endure whatever shakes—because He is the only one who won't.

So if you have your Bibles, go to Hebrews 12. If you would, stand out of reverence for the Word of God.

We're going to read the end of the passage, then walk back through it.

Verse 28:

Therefore, let us be grateful for receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, and thus let us offer to God acceptable worship, with reverence and awe, for our God is a consuming fire.

Let's pray.

Father, help us to be grateful for a kingdom that cannot be shaken. And I pray that you would shake anything in our lives that we're holding onto as ultimate.

Anything we trust more than you—shake it.

And as things shake, plant our feet on the solid foundation of Christ, who cannot be shaken.

We pray this in Jesus' name. Amen.

You can be seated.

## **MAIN IDEA: WHEN EVERYTHING SHAKES, HOLD ON TO WHAT CAN'T**

When everything starts shaking, grab hold of what can't—that's Jesus.

We've been talking about running the race—enduring, not giving up. Now the preacher shifts and says:

**Make sure you're running in the right direction.**

Because you can run hard—and still run the wrong way.

So he gives us two mountains:

- **Mount Sinai**
- **Mount Zion**

And the question is simple:

**Which one are you running to?**

## **1. DON'T RUN BACK TO SINAI**

Verse 18—he describes Sinai:

- blazing fire
- darkness
- gloom
- storm
- trumpet blast
- terrifying voice

The people begged God to stop speaking. They couldn't endure it. Even Moses said, "I tremble with fear."

**Sinai was:**

- Physical
- Loud and terrifying
- Restrictive ("stay away")
- Disheartening
- Fear-filled

And that's what they're tempted to go back to?

A place that says:

**Stay out. Don't come near. You'll die.**

And the preacher says:

**You haven't come to that.**

## **2. WATCH OUT FOR “MINI-SINAIS”**

Now, most of us aren't tempted to go back to literal Sinai.

But we are tempted to build our own.

**A “mini-Sinai” is anything you build your life on instead of Christ.**

- Your success
- Your goodness
- Your relationships
- Your identity

And here's the problem:

**It will shake.**

You build your life on your own goodness? Eventually it fails.

You expect others to live up to your standard? They won't.

Everything built on you... will shake.

So what do you do?

**Let go of what can shake—and grab hold of what can't.**

## **3. RUN TO ZION**

Verse 22:

You have come to Mount Zion...

This is completely different.

**Zion is:**

- **A city where God says “come near” (not stay away)**
- **A heavenly, unshakable reality**
- **A place of joy and celebration**
- **A gathering of believers already there**
- **The presence of God Himself**

And here's the good news:

**You're not running toward uncertainty—you're running toward something that already exists.**

#### **4. WHAT MAKES ZION BETTER?**

- **Joy instead of fear**
- **Nearness instead of distance**
- **Grace instead of judgment**

You're running to:

- God, the righteous judge—who has already judged your sin in Christ
- The spirits of the righteous made perfect—no more sin
- Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant
- A better word—mercy instead of condemnation

**Abel's blood cries out for justice.**

**Jesus' blood cries out for mercy.**

So which do you want?

#### **5. EVERYTHING WILL SHAKE—SO HOLD ON TO CHRIST**

Here's the warning:

**Everything is going to keep shaking.**

Your life. Your plans. This world.

God will shake everything—so that what cannot be shaken remains.

So the question is:

**What are you holding onto?**

Because only one thing won't move:

**Jesus.**

## **6. HOW SHOULD WE RESPOND?**

### **1. Listen**

Don't ignore God's voice. The gospel doesn't give you permission to sin—it gives you power to obey.

### **2. Be Grateful**

You've received a kingdom that cannot be shaken.

You didn't earn it. You didn't deserve it.

**So be grateful.**

### **3. Worship**

When something great happens—you respond.

Let me take you back to that living room.

When that shot went in—we didn't sit quietly and say, "That was nice."

We lost our minds.

Drinks flying. People yelling. Absolute chaos.

Why?

Because something amazing happened.

And we believe something infinitely greater:

**Jesus rose from the dead and brought us into an unshakable kingdom.**

So how could we not respond?

## **CONCLUSION: RESPOND WITH WORSHIP**

So here's the call:

Don't just stand there.

Don't just wait for this to end.

### **Respond.**

Let the truth go into your heart.

Let it come out of your mouth.

With gratitude and awe—**worship the God who secured your victory.**

Not casually.

Not half-hearted.

But fully.

Because:

**When everything shakes—He doesn't.**

Let's pray.

Father, we love you. Thank you for Jesus. Help us to obey you.

We pray this in His name. Amen.

\*AI generated outline