# Warning Against Refusing God - Hebrews 12:14-29

*Topics:* Angels, Bitterness, Celebration, Heaven, Holiness, Immorality, Jesus Christ, Judgment, Mediator, New Covenant, Peace, Unbelievers

## **Open It**

- 1. What causes bitterness?
- 2. How do you think you would react if your life were suddenly threatened by a severe earthquake, volcanic eruption, or avalanche?
- \* 3. What are some warnings that you have been grateful for? Why?

### **Explore It**

- 4. To what extent are Christians to try to resolve conflicts? Why? (12:14)
- 5. In what way should believers pursue holiness? Why? (12:14)
- \* 6. Why is holiness important? (12:14)
  - 7. What wrong attitude should we watch out for? (12:15)
- \* 8. What kinds of things do Christians need to watch out for? Why? (12:15-17, 25-27)
  - 9. What did Esau do that is described as godless? (12:16)
  - 10. What did Esau's godless behavior cost him? (12:17)
  - 11. In what ways was the old covenant intimidating or frightening? (12:18-21)
  - 12. How is Mount Sinai described—the place where the old covenant was revealed? (12:18)
  - 13. How did the author describe the new covenant? (12:22-24)
  - 14. In what way were God's thunderous pronouncements from Sinai only a foreshadowing of what is to come? (12:26-27)
  - 15. Of what kind of kingdom are Christians a part? (12:28)
  - 16. How should God's promises and glorious kingdom affect believers? (12:28)
- \* 17. How should we worship God? Why? (12:28-29)

#### Get It

- 18. Why is it difficult to get along with some people?
- 19. When we have conflicts with one another, why do we typically want the other person to make the first move toward reconciliation?
- \* 20. What roadblocks make it difficult for you to pursue holiness?
  - 21. How would you counsel a friend who was extremely bitter?
  - 22. What are some ways wrong values and impulsive actions might bring heartache and grief?
  - 23. What does it mean to live at peace with everyone?
  - 24. What is dangerous about bitterness?
  - 25. How is your view of God different as a result of studying this passage?
  - 26. For which of God's acts on your behalf are you most thankful?
- \* 27. What does it mean to worship God with reverence and awe?

## **Apply It**

- 28. What bitter or unforgiving attitudes do you need to confess today?
- \* 29. What practical steps can you take this week to avoid becoming bitter toward someone who has hurt you?
  - 30. What actions do you need to take today so that you can truly say you have made every effort to live in peace with everyone?