

[HEBREWS 12:25-29]
Sunday 27th Jan 2008

/ Shaken, not stirred

[Introduction]

I'm sure you are irritated by people who don't listen to you. And I'm very sure you are even more irritated by people who *refuse* to listen to you.

The TV show *Property Ladder* often seems to be less about property and more about people refusing to listen to the advice of Sarah Beeny, the expert property developer who presents the show.

But sometimes we are like the people on *Property Ladder*. For whatever reason, we refuse to listen. The original readers of Hebrews were like this too, but it was more serious, because they were refusing to listen to God. Sadly, we often do this too.

So God says to them, and to us: Don't refuse to listen to me, because if you do you'll be shaken.

[1] Don't refuse to listen to God (v25a)

When v25a says "See to it that you don't refuse him who speaks" it means "Don't refuse *to listen to* and *to respond to* him who speaks." "Him who speaks" is God.

The writer is urgent. *See to it* that you don't refuse to listen to God, he says. He wants us to make it a priority to listen to God.

But how does God speak? He speaks through circumstances, through coincidences (that are of His making), through other Christians, through preachers, through death (experiencing the death of someone you love or coming close to death yourself is God saying to you 'you are very mortal. Are you ready to die?')

God also speaks to us through the bible. But primarily He speaks to us through Jesus, His son.

Jesus died so that we could live. Our sin guarantees us physical and eternal death. But Jesus died so that we could live eternally. In allowing His son to die for humans, God spoke His love out loud and clear.

Will you listen to and respond to His love? Will you believe in Jesus and be saved?

[2] There is no escape for those who refuse to listen (v25b)

The Old Testament Israelites were warned by God from earth. 'Earth' refers to the physical earth of the mountain called Mount Sinai where God warned them what would happen if they didn't bother to keep his rules and obey Him.

God warns us today. But He is not on Mount Sinai, or Mount Everest, or even Ben Nevis. He is in heaven. And so He warns us from heaven.

And if there was no escape for the Israelites when they refused to listen to God's warning from earth, there is certainly no escape for us if we refuse to listen to God's warning from heaven.

- God warns those of us who are Christians that if we ditch him, and walk out on him, and don't continue to trust him and bother to obey him, then we will be punished.

- And God warns those who are not Christians that if you refuse to listen to his warnings, then there is no escape. The bible is full of warnings, but ignoring them brings disaster.

What will you do?
Will you listen to God's warnings?
Or will you not?
There is no escape whatsoever for those who refuse His warnings.

[3] There is no escape because there will be a shaking (v26-28)

Where it says in v26 "At that time his voice shook the earth" the writer is referring to the time of the giving of the Ten Commandments, where God was so vocal and so present that Mount Sinai shook.

In the future there will be another shaking. Not a stirring, but a shaking. And it will be a massive shaking; a shaking of judgment.

Every created thing will be removed by this shaking. In other words, every physical thing in the world that you care to think of will be destroyed.

Only one thing, God's kingdom, consisting of His people (Christians) will not be shaken.

God's kingdom is a kingdom that cannot be shaken.

Being a Christian means investing your life in something which is unshakable.

But if you are not a Christian you are investing your time & energy, into things which will ultimately be shaken away. Even worse, you too will be shaken; into hell, for your sins.

So what will you do?
Will you continue living for things that will be shaken to bits? Or will you listen to God's warnings and turn to His son and entrust yourself to His unshakable kingdom?