

pt.3 - Hills - Jesus Taught Most Of His Major Messages On Hills

Sermon Title: **pt.3 - Hills - Jesus Taught Most Of His Major Messages On Hills**

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Nathaniel Bronner: The truly elevated things in your life, they're going to require some hills.

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And now for 5676, Hills Part Three, Jesus Taught Most Of His Major Messages On Hills.

Nathaniel Bronner: Welcome to Brothers of the Word because brother, you need the word. And today we are continuing in a series of messages simply called "Hills." In part one, it dealt with God's view of time, distance and magnitude, that God's view of hills, the tallest mountains of the earth to deepest seas of the ocean, when you condensed down the world to the size of a pool ball, which God can hold in his hand, it is smooth as a pool ball. Part two, how hills are made and number one hills are not accidental and number two hills are necessary. And today's message, part three of the hills series, Jesus taught most of his major messages on hills.

Matthew 5, 1, "And seeing the multitudes, he went up on a mountain and when he was seated, his disciples came to him. Then he opened his mouth, and taught them, saying." And in so many of his messages, it began this way and I often wondered why did Jesus, on so many occasions, go up on a mountain and a mountain is nothing but a big hill. Why did Jesus go up on a mountain? Because if he went up on a mountain to teach people, it also meant that people had to climb the mountain to hear him.

Can you imagine if we held church service every Sunday on top of stone mountain and there were no cable cars running and every member who wanted to attend had to climb stone mountain just to hear the message for the day? I have a feeling that it would seriously cut down if the message had to be delivered from a mountain.

See, actually, this church literally sits on a hill with the highest point in this entire area and you do have to get up some steep steps to get here but its not quite a mountain but why did Jesus

teach so many of his messages on a mountain. And it's not just Jesus who often teaches from a mountain. The devil takes you on mountains too. Matthew 4:8, "Again, the devil took him up on an exceedingly high mountain." Not just a regular mountain, "on an exceedingly high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory and he said to him, all these things, I will I give you, if you will fall down and worship me."

Everything God does, the devil copies. So, the devil took Jesus up on an exceedingly high mountain hills. Number one, we don't like hills, we really don't. We prefer the smooth walk of life. But hills often are rigorous, they're rough. We don't like the foe with rough stuff. We would like to have everything just smooth, and calm, and peaceful.

And a few weeks ago, I was in my morning prayer and as I was there in the early morning, I heard God speak to me, "I want to feel you with me." And I said, "Oh Lord, oh amen. Oh mercy. Lord, you want to feel me with you. Amen, amen, amen." And that God, He says but, you also say but, and often times it's the but it messes us up. He said, "But." He says, "I have to empty you first." I said, "Oh, hold up Lord. Hold up right there. I can understand the glory and the beauty and the high spirit of filling me with you but you're talking about you need to empty me first."

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That sounds like a hill. That sounds like something that's strenuous. That sounds like something that's unpleasant." I said, "Hold up on that a minute, let me think about that. I'm just telling you the truth."

And it took me about two to three weeks thinking about that thing before I finally had to just go back to God. I said, "Lord, I thought about this thing. I know that whatever you have for me, it's for my --. So, whatever you have to do, do it." But it took me two to three weeks to get to the point where I said to myself, I'm willing to voluntarily deal with this hill. We just don't like hills.

I want you to just show the first slide that I gave you. This is me in Arizona. I'm on the side of a very large hill. You can't even see it that clear from the picture but this is a sloping mountain and about 20 feet further down to the right, it dropped straight down about a thousand feet. I was there in Arizona. I was with a guide who was taking me through some places. He

said, "I want to take you to this special place." And he got there to the edge and he said, "You've got to walk around this mountain, on this ledge to get where I want to show you." I said, "Wait a minute. There? And that thing is sloping down."

I said, "Look, there are no rails, there is no fence, there is no rope." I said, "If I slip." You all just say, "If I slip." I said, "If I slip, that thing go straight down, I will drop 1,000 feet to the hard ground below and if it doesn't kill me, it will at the very least seriously injure me." I said, "I don't want to go cross that hill!" And the guy says, "Come on, you can make it. You can make it. Come on, you can make it." So, there I am.

Now as you notice, I'm not walking confidently. I got my hands on the other side, I am going as cautious as I can go, as slow as I can go because I'll be perfectly honestly with you people, I was scared. I don't like unsupported heights. There's something about high ladders and high mountains. There was something about that thing. It just scared me.

Now, go to the next slide. As I got there, the place he wanted to show me, this is inside of a cave and outside, is a view of the entire valley, but to get to the place with a beautiful view, you have to go around that slanted mountain. And as I got there, go to the next slide. He took me up even on top of the mountain and as I was there, he said, "This is a sacred place." And he said, "Often, when I bring certain people here, it's something about you I just wanted to bring you here.

He said, "I just want to ask you to just pray to your God for whatever you want. And so what I did, I went down, I said, "Lord". I said, "Take this fear from me of these unsupported heights. Now see I am flying a plane with no problem because I'm in the cage and I'm in the cockpit. But those unsupported heights bother me. I said, "Take this fear from me of unsupported heights. And I wanted God to just touch me with his Holy Spirit and it's just gone.

And what I heard God speak was this, he said, as I was sitting there praying unto him, he said "Get up and go stand on the edge." I said, "Hold up, what?" He said, "Get up and go stand on the edge." So, there I was walking and I'm in the edge getting close and I mean this is straight down, no slidings and I went and got maybe three feet. He said, "I said stand on the

edge.” So I inched myself up and I put my toe that even and I said, “Lord, don’t you send a strong wind behind me.” I stood there on that edge for about five minutes looking straight down to that valley and virtually sudden death if I fail.

Sometimes there are some things that we want on our life but we want it the easy way. And God will tell us in order to get this thing, you have got to go and climb a hill. And often times people, Jesus had the people to climb a hill, to climb a mountain to hear a word, to sometimes vanish some things from our lives, to heal some things in our spirit to set us up on a proper course.

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And while we were there, just show the next slide. The next slide, as we got ready to leave, the guy’s jeep got stuck on a rock, a big boulder. He said that has never happened to him before. I said “Man, stuff happen when you are with me. It’s just strange.”

So, his jeep got stuck on a boulder and we ended up having to call a tow truck which was run by the native Indians. I got the chance to meet, to talk with them, so even the boulder had purpose.

Now, go to the final slide. As we got ready to leave, there was a double rainbow in the sky. See, sometimes when you do what God says even when it is scary, even when it is unpleasant, that comes a double blessing with the thing. “But you got to be able to go through the mountains and you got to be able to go through the hills and you’ve got to be able to stand the test of some of the things that God will put you through. It’s not all just flat rolling downhill. It is a challenge. You can turn the screen off now.

And you see in Numbers 21, beginning at the 4th Verse, “Then they journeyed from Mount Hor, from the mountain, by the way of the Red sea, to go around the land of Edom: and the soul of the people became very discouraged along the way. And the people spoke against God, and against Moses, “Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no bread and no water; and our soul loath this worthless bread.” So the Lord sent fiery serpents among the people, and they bit the people; and many of the people of Israel died.”

“Therefore, the people came to Moses, and said, “We have sinned, for we have spoken against the Lord, and against you; pray to the Lord, that he may take away the serpents from us.” So Moses prayed for the people. Then the Lord said to Moses, “Make a fiery serpent, and set it on a pole and it shall be that everyone who is bitten, when he looks at it, shall live.” So, Moses made a serpent of brass, and put it upon a pole, and so it was, if a serpent had bitten any man, when he looked at the bronze serpent, he lived.”

Now I want you to understand the principle of the serpent and the hill in this story. Many of the people in that situation would be focusing on the serpent. They would be focusing on what’s called “The symptom of the thing.” But the people of Israel sensed enough to focus on the cause and they went to Moses and said, “Moses because we have murmured and complained against God and you, these serpents have come unto us and have bitten some of us and many of us have died.”

Sometimes, people, we focus on serpents or whatever, wolves or lions or whatever the situation is in our lives and we never focused on the true cause because dealing with the true cause is usually a hill.

CVS has a commercial that’s running and it says, “What’s the most expensive pill in the world?” And the answer was the one people won’t take and since because people won’t take their medicine.

Sometimes, people, what we have to do to get through and over and beyond some situations that we have, it’s bitter medicine. But you’ve got to look at this thing and that’s why God told Moses, “Make a serpent, the very thing that has bitten them have them sit and examine it, look at it.” Now the last thing they wanted to do was look at something that it caused them all that problem. Look at it and examine it. See why this thing is so. Look at it. And those who look upon it shall be healed.

And this is a brother point, “You cannot conquer what you will not face.” You cannot conquer what you will not face. That’s why if you have an addiction, particularly alcohol and you go to Alcoholics Anonymous, they will make you stand up every time and they’ll make you say your name and say, “I am an alcoholic.” And to go deeper, you have to first acknowledge where you are

and then you have to examine this thing because even that won't fix the problem. You have to examine and say, "Why I am an alcoholic?"

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Why I am in this situation?" And unless you deal with the true cause of the thing, you will never -- the children of Israel could have complained all day by those snakes, they could have even killed the snakes, but if they didn't fix the cause, God would have sent someone else. And then they didn't recognize that it was because of their murmuring and complaining that have them in the situation, they would have never gotten out of it.

It's another brother point, "Denial causes defeat." When you will not face your real issues, when you won't look that hill, when you won't look that serpent dead in the eye, the only way God to get me get over my fear was to go stand at the edge. And that was something I absolutely did not want to do. The only way was to look that serpent dead in the eye. And when I got to the edge, I got to admit I was really nervous and shaky. But after I stood there for a minute or so, there was a calm, there was a confidence that came over me and I began to conquer this thing but I have to face it and look it dead in the eye.

You see, the hills that are before you and you will never climb a hill that you don't take the first step up on. And we often sit and wait on God to move the hill when we've got strength enough to get over that hill ourselves. Denial of the cause, denial of the cure because all cure and all medicine is bitter. Virtually, all medicine is bitter. So, we deal with these hills and we deal with these circumstances and you see the hills are obvious and they're seen by everybody. The snake was obvious and seen by everybody. When people see a snake, they not only see it themselves, they shout it to everybody else. The snake was obvious.

Romans 4, 17 says, "As it is written, I have made thee a father of many nations, before him whom he believed, even God, whom quickeneth the dead, and calleth those things which be not as though they were." You see, God calleth those things which be not as though they were and we need to speak both what is and call in to being what isn't. But people speak to the problem, not the symptoms. And this is often times, the major failure that we have to really conquer some things, we speak to the symptoms, we don't speak to the real problem.

“I have high blood pressure.” Now you know, you have too much salt intake, you don’t drink enough water, you don’t get enough exercise and you weigh too much, that’s a real problem. See, “I have high blood pressure.” No, you don’t! You got the other things that’s the real cause that results in the high blood pressure and if you all just focusing on the high blood pressure and you never focus on the cause of the thing, you can take medicine that control your high blood pressure, but you will never get rid of the cause and the high blood pressure will always be there and you just got your body full of medicine trying to lower the stuff.

You got to look the snake dead in the eye. And so, this is the real cause but people they’re difficult to examine the snake. It’s easy to examine our folk. So easy -- (00:18:16) the wife died, no. Examine the real problem and they may be the root in the start of it but some of you blame with some folk dead and gone. And it may have caused some issues but there’s absolutely nothing you can do about that. You got to deal of what the real problem is, where are the real problem is, they messed up my self-esteem.

Okay, so now let me get back to work on my self-esteem. So now I got to get that thing together. I’ve got to work on the real thing, the real hill, the real mountain.” I got to stand at the edge. I got to go around this mountain hanging on and hold on to the rock. See, I have sensed enough to hold on to the rock. I have sensed enough not to try to walk around that mountain straight up like this, bold and proud and stiff, I have sensed enough to hold on to the rock. So, you do have to have some sense enough to hold on to the rock but you do have to move.

So, that’s why Jesus didn’t tell to folk, “Look, you all just sit right where you are. I’m getting ready to teach you down the valley.” No! “He said, I’m going up the mountain and if you wanted like (00:19:24). If you want to go higher, you’ve got to climb this mountain to get -- I’m not going to leave you sitting there. You got to put some sweat.” That’s the Son of God.

Why didn’t He just teach the people down by the riverside? Where it was all comfortable, put their feet in the water and just sit there. Why did he make them climb a mountain to get his most major messages? And there’s a principle behind this thing and sometimes, we’ve got to deal with some things and recognize the

true mountain, the true cause and look that snake dead in the eye. Hills are hard to climb. There's no two ways about it.

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We took a Brother's trip in Colorado and we actually stayed about a third to the way up a mountain, so we have rented some bicycles. I took the bicycle and I started pedaling up the mountain. I pedal up that mountain for a solid hour. I wanted to get to the top but after an hour, I did give up. Just as far as I made, it's far as I made. So, I pedaled for one solid hour up that mountain and pooped out and stopped and I turned around and I came down. It took me one hour to pedal up the mountain. It took me five minutes to come down. I was just rolling, just wind whipping to my head, just all --

You see people, it's difficult to go up but going down, you can just fly going down. It's difficult to save money but to spend it and then blow it, that's easy, that's easy. It's difficult to get in shape but to get out of shape and blow it, that's easy. So, it's difficult to go up in anything but coming down is just easy. And so, many of us want the glory of the mountain but we want the easy to ride down.

So as we tackle these hills and begin to just understand some things about hills and mountains and why Jesus taught most of his major messages on the top of the mountain. Then, he had them on a mountain hungry on top of all that. That's one thing, you have to climb a mountain and then you're hungry. They've been up there for days with no food. Can you imagine would it be like if you just have all day, just one day, all day church service you didn't feed the folk? You got to feed folk because if you don't feed folk, they won't stay. So, Jesus got them up on a mountain three days with no food.

And the principle of spirit is like this. The truly elevated things in your life, they're going to require some hills and you're going to have to climb and claw and go stand on the edge. Now, don't be foolish because when he told me to go stand on the edge, I didn't do like this. I went just lean it all over, no, no. I used the best, better wisdom that I have. I did everything with maximum amount of wisdom and minimum amount of foolishness but it took me standing at the edge to get over some things that I was wrestling with and it's going to take you standing at the edge,

climbing the mountain to get over some things that you are wrestling with, hills. And Jesus taught most of his major messages on mountains.

I'm glad I made it through that message because I was afraid my throat would get a little scratchy because it's a little scratchy and I was coming to the airport last week, it took me, I had about an eight-hour flight. So I was in the airport about 10 hours and when I got home I told my wife. I said, "Babe my throat is scratchy and I've got mucus." She said, "That's probably from the air in the airport." I said, "No."

When I was in that airport, I ate all (00:23:24) and I had a big cheese pizza right before I got on the final plane and that thing was just hot as fire, the cheese was all dripping. I say, "The pizza literally burned my mouth. It was so hot." That's why my throat is because the pizza burning, it was hot. It got nothing to do with the airport, nothing to do with the air, it is me. And if I hadn't done what I knew not to do, I wouldn't have this problem.

You got to look that snake in the eye. It ain't no airport or the air. I had to be nice -- "Babe, you know that cabin, don't change and all that that's why my throat, scratching." I'm sitting on that plane, all those, no! Just like as me and most of your stuff that's you, that's you. And when you can just look that snake there in the eye, you've climbed that mountain, you've climbed that mountain.

And I just pray that pastor has enough sense not to do that again. Because most of our messed ups are not the first time. We do it over and over and over and over and over because rolling down the hill is easy. So you all pray for me that I won't do that again because I knew better, like most of you know better. "Well pastor, know better about what?" You know. You don't need a prophet to come tell you. You know. So if we just do what we know we supposed to do but doing what we know we are supposed to do is a hill.

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If it was the easy way, we've been been doing it. It's a hill.

So as we go through this life and as we face these hills, I want all of you to reach the top of the summit, but it is not easy but you

hold on to the rock. Because you're not following Jesus, what an easy. You do know that, you do know that. It won't be easy. Most of the disciples left him. It won't be easy. It was a hill. But if you hold on to the rock, if you hold on to the rock, you will get to the mount of transfiguration and you will be changed and you will be a new creature.

You can go to brothersoftheword.com. Listen to the entire series called "Hills." Absolutely free of charge. We thank you for joining us today at Brothers of the Word because brother, you need the Word. Amen, Amen, Amen.

Female: You are listening to brothersoftheword.com. This was Part 3 of the message titled, "Hills," subtitled "Jesus Taught Most Of His Major Messages On Hills", by Nathaniel Bronner. This message is number 5676. That's 5676. To listen to over a thousand free messages or to send this message number 5676 to a friend, go to brothersoftheword.com. Listen to brothersoftheword.com often because brother, you need the Word.

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