Worship that Does Justice

Deuteronomy: Choose Life | Week Eighteen | Deuteronomy 16:18–17:20

READ THIS WEEK

Deuteronomy 16:18–17:20, Matthew 11:28–30, Philippians 2:1–8, and Romans 13:1–7

01 BIG IDEAS TO MEDITATE ON

Sit with one of these each day. Read it slowly, then read the passage again with it in mind.

1. Justice opens this passage and obedience closes it. Humility is the thread that joins them.
2. The path from reading the Word to doing the Word runs through writing it down. Even the king had to copy it by hand and read it every day.
3. Less of you, more of others, and all of him. Compare yourself with others and you end in pride or envy. Compare yourself to Jesus and you end in humility.

02 PAUSE AND REFLECT

Personal reflection. Be honest with yourself and with God. Write your answers if you can.

1. When was the last time a favor, a friendship, or a fear of what someone would think shaped a decision you knew was not quite fair?
2. Be honest about how you read the Bible. Does it stay with you through the week, or does it stay on the page? What would change if you wrote down what God said to you?
3. Who do you measure yourself against most often? What does that comparison do to your heart?

03 LET'S TALK ABOUT IT

Group reflection and discussion. Bring these to your Connect Group, a friend, or your family table.

1. God set up judges before Israel had a government. What does that tell you about how much he cares about ordinary justice, and how should that shape the way Christians take part in public life?
2. The sermon said our trust is not in the people we appoint but in the God who holds the structure together. Where do you find that hard to believe right now?
3. God limited the king's power, pleasure, and wealth before he handed him the scroll. Which of those three has the strongest pull on you, and why?
4. Jesus, the true King, was judged unjustly so that we could be declared righteous. How does that change the way you handle being treated unfairly?

04 PRACTICAL NEXT STEPS

If this is true, what difference does it make this week?

1. Start your own scroll. Write out the commands and takeaways you find in Deuteronomy 16:18–17:20, keep the list where you will see it daily, and read it every morning this week.
2. Name one place where you have been showing partiality or holding a grudge, and take one concrete step toward fairness this week.
3. Each time you catch yourself comparing with someone else, stop and pray one sentence: Jesus, less of me, more of them, and all of you.

MY ONE STEP

What is God telling me to do today? Write down one specific step you will take this week.

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05 FUEL FOR YOUR PRAYER LIFE

Three prayer points to carry through the week.

- Pray for the leaders and judges in our city, our state, and our country, that they would judge fairly, refuse every bribe, and show no partiality.
- Ask God to show you where pride or envy has crept into your heart through comparison, and to replace it with the gentle, humble heart of Jesus.
- Pray that LOFT would be known in Richardson and across Dallas as a church that deals fairly, plays no favorites, and puts others first.

A PRAYER TO CARRY WITH YOU

Father, you are the righteous Judge, and you hold every structure together. Forgive me for trusting people and power more than you, and for the ways I have shown partiality and compared myself with others. Jesus, you are gentle and humble in heart. Write your Word on my heart the way the king wrote it on his scroll, and let me read it and do it all the days of my life. Make me a person of less of me, more of others, and all of you, in Jesus' name. Amen.

06 NOTES AND REFLECTIONS