Worship that Carries One Another

Deuteronomy: Choose Life | Week Nineteen | Deuteronomy 18:1-8

READ THIS WEEK

Deuteronomy 18:1-8, Numbers 18:20-24, Psalm 16, and 1 Peter 2:4-10

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. The Levites received no land because the LORD himself was their inheritance. They were given both nothing and something far better.
2. The rest of God's people carried the priests with their first and best. Supporting the people who serve is a form of worship.
3. Following Jesus will cost us some portions everyone else seems to get. But God is our portion, and no one can take him away.

02 PAUSE AND REFLECT

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

1. What do you most often look at in someone else's life and think, why do they get that and I do not?
2. If you lost your job, your plans, or your reputation tomorrow, what would you still have? Be honest about what you are leaning on.
3. When was the last time you gave the first and best of something, your time, money, or attention, before you knew what would be left over?

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03 LET'S TALK ABOUT IT

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

1. Why do you think God gave the Levites no land instead of simply giving them a larger share? What was he teaching them, and the rest of Israel?
2. The other tribes were asked to carry the priests with their firstfruits. What does it look like for a church today to carry one another well?
3. Jesus warned that following him would cost his people things others seem to get. Where have you seen that be true, in your life or in someone you know?

4. Jesus, the one who made every nest, had nowhere to lay his head. How does his willingness to give up his portion shape the way you handle loss?

04 PRACTICAL NEXT STEPS

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

1. Write down one good gift you have been leaning on as your inheritance. Each morning this week, hold it before God and pray, LORD, you are my portion.
2. Give the first and best of something this week, before you see what is left over. It might be your first hour, your first dollar, or your first attention of the day.
3. Think of someone whose faith has cost them something. Write them a note, take them a meal, or simply tell them you see what they have given up for Jesus.

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.

- Ask God to show you where you have been treating his gifts as your inheritance, and to make him your portion again.
- Pray for those who have lost family, friendships, or opportunities because they follow Jesus, here in our city and around the world.
- Pray that LOFT would be a church that carries one another with the first and best of what we have, so that our city sees what God is like.

A PRAYER TO CARRY WITH YOU

Father, you have promised to be my portion, and yet I keep counting what others have and what I lack. Forgive me for wanting your gifts more than I want you. Jesus, you gave up everything that was yours so that I could share in all that is yours. When following you costs me something, remind me that I have not lost my inheritance. Holy Spirit, make me someone who carries others with the first and best of what I have, and who stands in your name wherever you send me this week, in Jesus' name. Amen.

06 NOTES AND REFLECTIONS