Worship that Listens

Deuteronomy: Choose Life | Week Twenty | Deuteronomy 18:9–22

READ THIS WEEK

Deuteronomy 18:9–22, Deuteronomy 5:22–33, Mark 9:2–8, and Hebrews 1:1–3

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 nations tried to grab the future through omens and spells. God asks for a whole heart that trusts him with what it cannot see.
2. God answered his people's fear by giving them his word through a person. Jesus is that Prophet, and the Father says, listen to him.
3. Not every voice that uses God's name speaks for him. We test what we hear by Scripture, by its fruit, and together, and we do not have to be afraid.

02 PAUSE AND REFLECT

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

1. When you feel anxious about the future, what is the first thing you reach for? What are you hoping it will give you?
2. Is there something you keep asking God to show you when you already know what he has asked you to do?
3. Whose voice carries the most authority in your life right now, apart from God's? Is that voice leading you toward him or away from him?

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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 was so serious about these practices that he called them detestable? What do they say about how people see God?
2. Many of us grew up around family or cultural practices for reading the future. How can we follow Jesus fully and still honor the people who taught us those practices?
3. What is the difference between asking God for guidance and asking him for a guarantee? Where do you see that difference in your own prayers?

4. How can a church test what is said in God's name, including from the pulpit, while still being a place where people feel safe to speak?

04 PRACTICAL NEXT STEPS

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

1. Notice this week where you reach for certainty when you feel anxious, whether that is your phone, a forecast, or a person. Each time, stop and pray, Lord, you hold tomorrow. What is my next faithful step today?
2. Do one thing God has already made clear. Make the apology, have the honest conversation, or give generously to someone in need.
3. Before you say "God told me" or "God wants," ask whether you could point to where he said it. If you cannot, say what you think and hold it humbly.

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 make your heart whole before him, and to show you any voice you have been leaning on more than his.
- Pray for people in our church family who are carrying fear about the future, including health, work, immigration, or family decisions, that they would know the God who holds tomorrow.
- Pray for the leaders and preachers of LOFT City Church, that they would speak of God carefully and humbly, and that our church would listen to Jesus above every other voice.

A PRAYER TO CARRY WITH YOU

Father, I want to know what is coming, and I go looking for answers in places that cannot give them. Forgive me for wanting a guarantee more than I want you. Jesus, you are the Word the Father told me to listen to. Help me take the next faithful step you have already shown me, even when I cannot see the whole road. Holy Spirit, give me ears to hear, wisdom to test every voice, and a whole heart that belongs to you, in Jesus' name. Amen.

06 NOTES AND REFLECTIONS