

10/11 October 2023 //

Deuteronomy 30: 19-20 & 31:6-8

Background:

Over these past few weeks in our Vision series, Jago highlighted four key decisions to make in life based on the Deuteronomy passages. We will have a look at these as a group together and consider how they apply to us as Individual bodies but also as a body of Christ.

1. Choose Life – Connected to Jesus.

See John 15:16

Why choose Life? (*Because He first chose me.*)

Reflection - have I chosen Jesus for myself? What does saying "yes" to Jesus mean we need to say "no" to? Consider sharing as you are comfortable the cost of this choice in your own life as a way to encourage others who are weighing the cost.

2. Love the Lord your God – Centrality of Jesus.

See Deut. 6:5; 7:7-8

Why love Him? (*Because He first loved us.*)

Reflection - do I believe that God loves me? What are some common reasons that we might think we / humanity is unlovable to God or undeserving of His love?

As we in turn look to love Him with all our heart, soul, mind and strength, does this seem humanly possible? How does what Jesus did make it possible for us to love God with everything? (See Romans 5:8 and Romans 3:23-25)

3. Listen to His voice – Committed to Jesus' Word.

See John 10:27-28; Ps. 19:1-6

Why listen to Him? Because He has started the conversation - spoken to us. How? Though natural revelation (through his world); through His Word; through His Spirit at work in us.

Reflection - do we have ears to hear Him? Do we carve out the time and space to allow Him to speak? Do we know how to identify His voice? Share with one another encouragements of how God has spoken with you in your journey with Him.

4. Hold fast to Him – Courageous for Jesus.

See Deut. 31:6 & 8

Why hold fast to Him? *Because He holds fast to us ...* He goes before us like an advance guard as well as alongside us as our constant companion.

Reflection: Even in the face of hardship and trials do we rest in the knowledge of God holding fast to me? What would that assurance result in? (*That we can be courageous and that we can be content - see Phil. 4:11-13.*)

As we look at our own spheres of influence- where are we assigned roles of leadership - where we are given opportunity to act courageously - to "cut through the ice" as we reach out with the gospel; as we look to plant and renew churches; as we speak truth to those in power... being the "lead ship" takes courage. Discuss areas that God might be using each of us to be a lead ship in difference circumstances. How can we support others in leadership around us?

Responding in Action

Look again at the particular ways, in our Vision for Life series, we at HTC can respond by action to God's love.

See A Vision for Life

In what ways can we as individual bodies and as a connect group body and as a church body be challenged to respond with courage and contentment to these various opportunities?

Spend some time in **prayer** for one another as we long to be people of courage / people who are content / people called to be lead ships / people who feel secure in our connectedness to God.