Bringing it Home

1. Describe the temporary, passing voices that you hear telling you how to live your life. How are these voices competing for your obedience? In what ways are you hearing God’s word, but not doing what His word says? How is this disobedience limiting your ability to live fully engaged as a citizen of God’s kingdom?

2. And yet, the Bible says, “God loves you.” What is keeping you from believing this truth? If God loves you, then He will help you, through the Holy Spirit, to move forward in faith and do what He says. What specific area of your life is being held back? What do you need to say to God about this area of your life? How will giving this area up to God free you to do what He says?

Sermon Notes

I. The Responsibility to Hear God Speak - Hebrews 12:25-27

A. The Command - Hebrews 12:25a

B. The Contrast - Hebrews 12:25b

1. In the past, God spoke on earth through Sinai. Hebrews 12:25b; Exodus 20:19; Numbers 14:29

2. In the present, God speaks from heaven through His Son. Hebrews 12:25c; 1:1-2; 2:3; 10:28-29

C. The Comparison - Hebrews 12:26-27

1. In the past, God shook the earth. - Hebrews 12:26a

2. In the future, God will shake both the earth and the heavens. Hebrews 12:26b-27; 1:10-12; Haggai 2:6; Isaiah 13:13; 2 Peter 3:10; Revelation 21:1

II. The Result of Hearing God Speak - Hebrews 12:28-29

A. We have an enduring promise. - Hebrews 12:28

B. We have an enduring privilege. - Hebrews 12:28b

C. We have an enduring principle. - Hebrews 12:28c-29; Deut. 4:23-24
Small Group Questions

Getting Started
1. Whose opinion matters most to you? When this person tells you what they think, how do you respond to what they say? When they encourage or celebrate you with their words, how does that make you feel? What about when they tell you how you should live your life?

2. Children don’t always listen to the best voices. How do children listen to the wrong voices in their lives? How do their friends, the media and their own desires tell them how to live their lives? Describe the conflict that children bring into their lives when they don’t listen to the best voices.

Digging Deeper
1. Children of God are not exempt from hearing conflicting messages in their lives. How might Christians allow the opinions of others to tell them how to live their lives? In what ways can Christians refuse to listen to God’s Word in their lives? What types of challenges show up when followers of God refuse God’s guidance and direction?

2. We heard, “The Bible is consistent in telling us that the world as we know it is not eternal.” God’s words guide us toward lives that are eternally focused, not temporary. Read Hebrews 1:10-12 and describe the transitory, temporary, passing nature of this world.

3. As God’s children, then, our home is God’s eternal kingdom. Read the following verses and discuss what this kingdom will look like. What will happen to other kingdoms? In what manner will God’s children enter His kingdom?

   Isaiah 9:7
   Daniel 2:44
   Luke 1:32, 33
   1 Corinthians 4:20
   Revelation 11:15

4. Obedience (hearing and doing what God tells us) looks different when we think about eternal life. Read James 1:22-25. Discuss the necessary connection between hearing God’s word and then doing what it says. How does obedience bring us blessings?

5. Disobedience, then, keeps us from fully engaging in the life God has given us. How does disobedience bring confusion and conflict into our lives? How does disobedience make God’s truth difficult to believe and follow? How does disobedience limit our lives by clouding our minds and hearts?