



Isaiah 30:15–22
New River Church
Speaker: Curtis Zachary (CZ)

Big Idea

God desires to guide His people personally and clearly, but hearing His voice requires returning to Him, resting in His care, quieting our inner world, and trusting Him fully instead of relying on our own plans or substitutes.

Scripture

Isaiah 30:15–22

“In returning and rest you shall be saved; in quietness and trust shall be your strength... And your ears shall hear a word behind you, saying, ‘This is the way, walk in it.’”

Icebreaker

When you feel overwhelmed or unsure about a decision, where do you naturally turn first for clarity or comfort?

Discussion Questions

1. In Isaiah 30, the people of God looked to Egypt for protection instead of trusting the Lord. What are some modern “Egypt” we are tempted to rely on when we feel threatened, anxious, or uncertain?
2. CZ talked about the word *returning* as reorientation rather than just repentance. Where in your life might God be inviting you to realign your attention, trust, or priorities back toward Him?
3. The sermon described *rest* as resisting escalation and letting God be our protector instead of striving in our own strength. What does escalation look like in your life when problems arise?
4. Quietness was described as inner stillness, not just external silence. What are some of the internal noises that make it hard for you to hear God clearly?
5. Trust was compared to laying on the operating table and letting the surgeon do the work. Where do you sense God asking you to relinquish control rather than manage the outcome yourself?

6. Isaiah says that when God's people walk in these rhythms, they will hear a clear voice saying, "This is the way, walk in it." Have you experienced moments where clarity came after slowing down and trusting God?
 7. CZ emphasized that idols lose their power not through willpower but through intimacy with God. How does this challenge the way we often try to "fix" habits or patterns in our lives?
 8. Verse 18 says the Lord *waits to be gracious*. How does that reshape your view of God when you realize He is not rushing to punish but eager to show mercy?
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Closing Prayer

Father, we confess how often we rely on our own understanding instead of resting in You. Teach us how to return, to rest, to quiet our hearts, and to trust You fully. Help us hear Your voice clearly and walk in the way You are leading us. Thank You that You wait to be gracious and that Your mercy meets us even when we are unwilling. We choose to trust You again today. Amen.