

March 22 Answers

- 1) Moses' third and final sermon. Moses began by reminding the people of what they had seen and heard: "The great trials that your eyes saw, the signs, and those great wonders" (Deut 29:3). Then Moses said, "But to this day the LORD has not given you a heart to **understand** or eyes to **see** or ears to **hear**" (Deut 29:4; cf. Isa 6:9–10; Matt 13:14–15). The eyes that witnessed the exodus had not become eyes of faith. The ears that heard God's voice at Sinai had not become ears of obedience. The hearts that experienced God's care and provision had not become hearts of loyalty. How could this be? Was it somehow God's fault? Had He prevented them from being able to obey? Certainly not! The reason God had not given them ears to hear and eyes to see and hearts to understand was because such gifts can only be given to those who come to God in sincere **repentance** and **faith**. God can give anyone water from a rock and manna from heaven. God can give anyone clothes that don't wear out and sandals that don't wear off. But inner, **spiritual** change can only come to those who respond to God in faith! But surely God's Law was too **distant** for them to know and too **hard** for them to keep? No! God told the people clearly that His Law was *not* too hard and it was *not* too far away. "It is in your mouth and in your heart, so that you **can** do it" (Deut 30:14). They couldn't lay their failure at God's feet, for they had everything they needed to be successful. If they perished, it was because they had scorned His offer of grace. Moses then told the people that he would not be going with them into Canaan: "The LORD your God himself will go over before you. He will destroy these nations before you, so that you shall dispossess them, and Joshua will go over at your head, as the LORD has spoken" (Deut 31:3). This teaches us that while **human** leadership may change, God's guiding and protecting presence remains the same. We can be strong and courageous because God is with us. He will never fail or forsake us, and although the challenge ahead may be great, we have no need to fear!