

God's Requirements, Micah 6:8



God chose the Nation of Israel to be His kingdom or His people on earth

- They were to live in a way that other nations would recognize their covenant with the true God and desire to be included
- Since the people did not know how to live honorably before God, He gave them His commands on how they were to live and what kind nation they were to be

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- God's interactions with Israel were to be based upon a relationship with Him and each other, not just a rote obedience to His commands
- How they were to think about God and treat Him along with how they were to think and treat each other
- They failed miserably not because God's commands were too harsh or overbearing

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- God had continually kept His side of the covenant
- They wanted the protection and promises of God without being accountable to Him, to live like they wanted
- God used His prophet Micah to address the Nation and He is using a court scene

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- **Micah 8:1-2 NIV**, Listen to what the Lord says: “Stand up, plead my case before the mountains; let the hills hear what you have to say. 2 “Hear, you mountains, the Lord’s accusation; listen, you everlasting foundations of the earth. For the Lord has a case against his people; he is lodging a charge against Israel.”
 - Who is the jury?

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- **Micah 8:3-5 NIV**, “My people, what have I done to you? How have I burdened you? Answer me. 4 I brought you up out of Egypt and redeemed you from the land of slavery. I sent Moses to lead you, also Aaron and Miriam. 5 My people, remember what Balak king of Moab plotted and what Balaam son of Beor answered. Remember your journey from Shittim to Gilgal, that you may know the righteous acts of the Lord.”
 - How would God say this to us today?

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- **Micah 8:6-7 NIV**, “With what shall I come before the Lord and bow down before the exalted God? Shall I come before him with burnt offerings, with calves a year old? 7 Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams, with ten thousand rivers of olive oil? Shall I offer my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?”
 - What will please you God?

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- How can I stand before you accepted receiving your peace, protection, presence, promises?
- They knew and remembered the sacrificial commands
 - My firstborn son? That's what the other nations bring to their gods
- How could we say today?

Scripture

- **Micah 6:8 NIV**, He has shown you, O mortal, what is good (*acceptable and pleasing*). And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.
 - These requirements did not change in the New Testament, nor have they changed because the year is 2022

To act justly

- **NLT**-to do what is right, **AMP**-to be just, **YLT**-to do judgment, **RSV**-to do justice
- This is something we choose as an act of our will to do
- Remember this is God telling us what He expects of those in His Kingdom, so it is not a suggestion
- This would have been understood by Micah's audience as living with a godly sense of right and wrong
- Having a mind tuned towards God

To act justly

- God had blessed Israel with His Scriptures on how to live, think, see their world through His eye, to understand with His heart
- God, “Using the truth I have given you, live it out.”
 - Use my truth as a beacon to guide your paths
 - **Psalms 119:105 NIV**, Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path.
 - Live so others can see my truth being lived out daily in your lives

To act justly

- **Luke 11:42 NIV**, 42 “Woe to you Pharisees, because you give God a tenth of your mint, rue and all other kinds of garden herbs, but you neglect justice and the love of God. You should have practiced the latter without leaving the former undone.”

To love mercy

- “Love mercy” contains the Hebrew word hesed, which means “loyal love” or “loving-kindness”
- We are to have a loyal love for mercy, the place we run to first
- Not just mercy received, but mercy given in the same degree we have received

To love mercy

- God expected His people to show mercy to their fellow man and to be loyal in their love toward God, just as He had been loyal and shown mercy to them
- Even when justice, as we define it today, is warranted it can be graced with mercy

To love mercy

- Do we see this in God's actions toward us?
 - God said, "The soul who sins will die." (*Justice*)
 - Paul tells us all have sinned and fallen short of God's standard for our lives
 - Scripture also tells us God loves His creation and creatures

To love mercy

- Do we see this in God's actions toward us?
 - The standard for sinning remains – death
 - God graced mankind by providing a redeemer in Jesus Christ who took our death and offers us His abundant life
 - Then He applied mercy to sinful separated people who place their trust in the finished work of Jesus Christ - He is our mercy seat

To love mercy

- We love receiving mercy, don't we?
- But we are to also love giving mercy where none appears due

To walk humbly with your God

- “Walk humbly” is a description of the heart’s attitude toward God
- God’s people are to depend on Him rather than their own abilities
- Instead of taking pride in what we bring to God, we humbly recognize that no amount of personal sacrifice can replace a heart committed to justice, mercy, and love

To walk humbly with your God

- The Hebrew word for humbly could also be *prudently*
- Prudently using today's definition means – virtuous (*high moral standards*) capacity to regulate (*to control or maintain*) in a convenient (*efficient*) and orderly manner our actions to reach an established end
- The established end in Micah is living our lives by the will or commands of God, to His glory

To walk humbly with your God

- We do this by regulating the way we think, see our world, and make our decisions in order to ensure our lives reflect and glorify Him
- In the Old Testament it meant understanding, insight, intelligence to discern the will of God
- The response of a godly heart is outward (*do justice*), inward (*love mercy*), and upward (*walk humbly*)

This is the example left to us by Jesus

- **Philippians 2:5-8 NIV**, 5 In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus: 6 Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; 7 rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness.

This is the example left to us by Jesus

- **Philippians 2:5-8 NIV**, 8 And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death—even death on a cross!
 - **MSG**, “he lived a selfless, obedient life and then died a selfless, obedient death—and the worst kind of death at that—a crucifixion.”

What Micah is saying is, “Don’t just do them Israel, be them!”

- Don’t just do the sacrifices, but let the meaning of the sacrifices fill you with understanding and live them
- Don’t just have the words of God’s Law in your minds but let His commands flow through your day-to-day lives without hindering them

What Micah is saying is, “Don’t just do them Israel, be them!”

- Don’t just come to church, but be the church by letting the good news of Jesus flow through the events of your lives
- Act justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with your God

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