

What Does the Lord Require of You?

Micah 6:6-8

Micah answers his own question, and makes some important points...

We can learn from these for the benefit of the Lord's church today

To Do Justly

Act toward God and man according to His divine law

Matthew 7:21 *Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven.*

Ephesians 4:25-32 *Therefore, having put away falsehood, let each one of you speak the truth with his neighbor, for we are members one of another. Be angry and do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, and give no opportunity to the devil. Let the thief no longer steal, but rather let him labor, doing honest work with his own hands, so that he may have something to share with anyone in need. Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion, that it may give grace to those who hear. And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.*

Worship as commanded by God & treat fellow man in a right and fair way

Failure to do "justly" was main reason Israel went into captivity

Zechariah 7:8-14 *And the word of the Lord came to Zechariah, saying, "Thus says the Lord of hosts, Render true judgments, show kindness and mercy to one another, do not oppress the widow, the fatherless, the sojourner, or the poor, and let none of you devise evil against another in your heart."*

But they refused to pay attention and turned a stubborn shoulder and stopped their ears that they might not hear. They made their hearts diamond-hard lest they should hear the law and the words that the Lord of hosts had sent by his Spirit through the former prophets. Therefore great anger came from the Lord of hosts.

"As I called, and they would not hear, so they called, and I would not hear," says the Lord of hosts, "and I scattered them with a whirlwind among all the nations that they had not known. Thus the land they left was desolate, so that no one went to and fro, and the pleasant land was made desolate."

To Love Mercy

This means to desire to do kindness and show care to others

Not only treat others fairly, but show mercy when are mistreated

James 1:27 *Religion that is pure and undefiled before God, the Father, is this: to visit orphans and widows in their affliction, and to keep oneself unstained from the world.*

Luke 6:35-36 *But love your enemies, and do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return, and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High, for he is kind to the ungrateful and the evil. Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful.*

One reason we are to love mercy is God Himself delights in mercy

Micah 7:18-19 *Who is a God like you, pardoning iniquity and passing over transgression for the remnant of his inheritance? He does not retain his anger forever, because he delights in steadfast love. He will again have compassion on us; he will tread our iniquities underfoot. You will cast all our sins into the depths of the sea.*

To Walk Humbly with Your God

This involves living in humble submissiveness to God's Will

It can only happen when we understand our place in God's Plan

Humble of heart and spirit greatly pleases God

Isaiah 57:15 *For thus says the One who is high and lifted up, who inhabits eternity, whose name is Holy: "I dwell in the high and holy place, and also with him who is of a contrite and lowly spirit, to revive the spirit of the lowly, and to revive the heart of the contrite."*

Only way enjoy fellowship & cleansing blood

James 4:8 *Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded.*

1John 1:7-10 *But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.*

Such close communion and fellowship with God requires daily...

Listen to God - study Word to learn His will

James 1:21 *Therefore put away all filthiness and rampant wickedness and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls.*

1Peter 2:2 *Like newborn infants, long for the pure spiritual milk, that by it you may grow up into salvation--*

Talk to God - praying for strength, forgiveness, praising Him for blessing

Hebrews 4:14-16 *Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.*

Philippians 4:5-7 *Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand; do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.*

Walk with God - doing Will in humble submission

Ephesians 5:2 *And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.*

Ephesians 5:8 *for at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light*

Ephesians 5:15 *Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise,*

Walk humbly with God, more likely to properly balance demands to do justly and love mercy

These things God required of those who would come before Him. Not instead of ritual observances, but in conjunction with them

Matthew 23:23 *Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you tithe mint and dill and cumin, and have neglected the weightier matters of the law: justice and mercy and faithfulness. These you ought to have done, without neglecting the others.*

Even though live under a different covenant, Lord still requires us to do justly, to love mercy, to walk humbly with our God

Worship "rituals" may be different, but basics are still same!

Are you doing what the Lord requires of you? Consider this...

Have you done justly (by obeying the gospel of Christ)?

Do love mercy (shown by accepting God's mercy offered in Christ)?

Walking humbly with God? (by living submissive, obedient life)?

If not, then all church services you may attended, all sermons you may have heard, all prayers you may have offered, will benefit you nothing!

Daniel Lee Henderson EO