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# CBC WEEKLY RESOURCES

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MAY 10, 2026

COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH  
3645 Cashiers Rd, Highlands, NC 28741

# I. SERMON RECAP

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Micah 6:6–8 confronts a question many of us quietly live with: “What does God actually want from me?” Pastor Chris showed that God is not asking for more religious performance, more effort, or more impressive sacrifices. He has already spoken clearly in His Word. What He requires is a life shaped by His heart: **to act justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God**. The problem in Micah’s day wasn’t ignorance; it was unresponsiveness. The people knew God, kept the forms of worship, but their hearts drifted. That same danger exists for us today: to stay near the things of God while slowly moving away from the heart of God.

The pastoral heart of the message was both convicting and deeply encouraging. Convicting, because most of us know areas where God has already made His will clear. Yet still we delay obedience, avoid hard conversations, or hold back mercy from people who frustrate or wound us. Luckily, everything God requires in Micah 6:8 is fulfilled in Jesus. At the cross, God’s justice is fully satisfied, His mercy is lavishly poured out, and His humility is perfectly displayed. We don’t “try harder” to earn God’s favor; we **respond** to the grace we’ve already received. Because Jesus lived, died, and rose for us, we are now free and empowered to live lives of justice, mercy, and humble dependence day by day.

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# II. STUDY GUIDE

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## Key Points

- **God is not unclear**

He has already spoken through His Word about what He requires. Obedience is usually not about discovering something new but about responding to what we already know.

- **Obedience vs. Delay**

We often call delay “waiting for the right time,” but many times we’re just avoiding hard obedience. Delayed obedience trains our hearts to live AROUND God’s commands instead of IN them.

- **Do justice**

Biblical justice is not just awareness or agreement; it is concrete action. It shows up especially in how we treat those with less power, less voice, or in vulnerable positions around us.

- **Love mercy (kindness)**

Mercy is UNEARNED KINDNESS. It’s more than doing the right thing; it’s having a heart that genuinely delights to show undeserved kindness, especially toward those who frustrate or fail us.

- **Walk humbly with your God**

The Christian life is not mainly about impressive effort but about deep dependence. Pride often hides under “responsibility” and “control”; humility entrusts outcomes to God and walks with Him daily.

- **Jesus fulfills Micah 6:8**

At the cross, God’s justice is satisfied, His mercy extended, and His humility displayed. This isn’t just an example to copy; it is our salvation and the source of power to live this way.

## Key Scripture

### **Micah 6:6-8 (NIV)**

6 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

8 He has shown you O mortal what is good And what does the Lord require of you  
To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God

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### **Deuteronomy 10:12 (NIV)**

And now Israel what does the Lord your God ask of you but to fear the Lord your  
God to walk in obedience to him to love him to serve the Lord your God with all your  
heart and with all your soul

### **Psalms 119:105 (NIV)**

Your word is a lamp for my feet a light on my path

### **James 1:22 (NIV)**

Do not merely listen to the word and so deceive yourselves Do what it says

### **Isaiah 58:6 (NIV)**

Is not this the kind of fasting I have chosen to loose the chains of injustice and untie  
the cords of the yoke to set the oppressed free and break every yoke

### **Proverbs 21:13 (NIV)**

Whoever shuts their ears to the cry of the poor will also cry out and not be answered

### **Hosea 6:6 (NIV)**

For I desire mercy not sacrifice and acknowledgment of God rather than burnt  
offerings

### **Matthew 9:13 (NIV)**

But go and learn what this means I desire mercy not sacrifice For I have not come to  
call the righteous but sinners

**John 15:4-5 (NIV)**

4 Remain in me as I also remain in you No branch can bear fruit by itself it must remain in the vine Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me

5 I am the vine you are the branches If you remain in me and I in you you will bear much fruit apart from me you can do nothing

**Psalm 131:2 (NIV)**

But I have calmed and quieted myself I am like a weaned child with its mother like a weaned child I am content

**Luke 15:17-24 (NIV)**

17 When he came to his senses he said How many of my father's hired servants have food to spare and here I am starving to death

18 I will set out and go back to my father and say to him Father I have sinned against heaven and against you

19 I am no longer worthy to be called your son make me like one of your hired servants

20 So he got up and went to his father But while he was still a long way off his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him he ran to his son threw his arms around him and kissed him

21 The son said to him Father I have sinned against heaven and against you I am no longer worthy to be called your son

22 But the father said to his servants Quick Bring the best robe and put it on him Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet

23 Bring the fattened calf and kill it Let's have a feast and celebrate

24 For this son of mine was dead and is alive again he was lost and is found So they began to celebrate

**Luke 15:28-32 (NIV)**

28 The older brother became angry and refused to go in So his father went out and pleaded with him

29 But he answered his father Look All these years I've been slaving for you and never disobeyed your orders Yet you never gave me even a young goat so I could celebrate with my friends

30 But when this son of yours who has squandered your property with prostitutes comes home you kill the fattened calf for him

31 My son the father said you are always with me and everything I have is yours

32 But we had to celebrate and be glad because this brother of yours was dead and is alive again he was lost and is found

**Romans 3:25–26 (NIV)**

25 God presented Christ as a sacrifice of atonement through the shedding of his blood to be received by faith He did this to demonstrate his righteousness because in his forbearance he had left the sins committed beforehand unpunished  
26 he did it to demonstrate his righteousness at the present time so as to be just and the one who justifies those who have faith in 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  
8 And being found in appearance as a man he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death even death on a cross

**Romans 5:8–10 (NIV)**

8 But God demonstrates his own love for us in this While we were still sinners Christ died for us  
9 Since we have now been justified by his blood how much more shall we be saved from God's wrath through him  
10 For if while we were God's enemies we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son how much more having been reconciled shall we be saved through his life

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**Other Relevant Versus**

- **Ephesians 2:8–10 (NIV)** – General thematic tie: Shows that we are saved by grace and created in Christ Jesus to do good works, including lives of justice and mercy.
- **Colossians 3:12–14 (NIV)** – General thematic tie: Expounds on a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience as our identity in Christ.
- **Galatians 5:22–25 (NIV)** – General thematic tie: The fruit of the Spirit aligns with acting justly, loving mercy, and walking humbly as we keep in step with the Spirit.



# III. DEVOTIONAL MATERIAL

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## 1. DAY 1 – CLEAR REQUIREMENTS, RELUCTANT HEARTS

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### Reflection Question

Where in your life has God already made His will clear, yet you find yourself delaying obedience?

### Reading

- Micah 6:6–8

### Devotional Content

Micah prophesied to God's people in a time of moral and spiritual decay. Outwardly, Israel still brought sacrifices and kept religious practices. Inwardly, they were drifting. They exploited the vulnerable, ignored injustice, and treated worship like a box to check. In Micah 6, God takes them into a kind of covenant "courtroom," reminding them He has rescued and carried them. The people's response, "With what shall I come before the Lord...?" sounds pious, but it reveals a heart trying to bargain. They offer MORE sacrifice instead of REAL repentance.

Into this, God speaks with piercing simplicity: "He has shown you... What is good." This isn't a call to discover some secret spiritual technique but to return to what they already knew: lives of justice, mercy, and humble fellowship with God. Their problem was not a lack of information but a lack of response. The same danger faces us. We can listen to sermons, attend groups, and say the right words; while quietly stepping around the actual places God is calling us to obey.

### Application & Closing

Take time today to honestly name one area where you are avoiding obedience: a conversation you're putting off, a confession you're resisting, a person you're refusing to forgive, a habit you won't surrender.

- Ask the Spirit to show you where you're trying to "offer more sacrifice" (busyness, religious activity) instead of walking in clear obedience.
  - Write one simple, concrete step you can take this week to obey in that area.
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## 2. DAY 2 - JUSTICE IN ORDINARY PLACES

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### Reflection Question

Who around you is vulnerable, overlooked, or mistreated—and what might it cost you to act justly toward them?

### Reading

- Micah 6:8
- Isaiah 58:6
- Proverbs 21:13

### Devotional Content

In the ancient Near East, justice was often skewed toward the powerful. God's law stood out radically. Again and again, He commanded care for the poor, the widow, the foreigner, and the orphan. In Isaiah 58, the people are fasting and doing religious activities, yet God rejects it because their "worship" leaves injustice untouched. True fasting, He says, is to "loose the chains of injustice" and "set the oppressed free."

Proverbs 21:13 adds a sobering dimension: turning a deaf ear to the poor has spiritual consequences; our own cries may go unanswered. God so identifies with the vulnerable that our treatment of them reveals the reality of our worship. Justice in Scripture is not abstract theory; it is concrete action on behalf of those with less power and fewer options.

Micah's call "to act justly" pushes us into the ordinary spaces where we live, work, and relate. Justice may look like speaking up for someone treated unfairly, refusing to participate in gossip that harms someone's reputation, advocating for ethical practices at work, or stepping in practically when someone is being taken advantage of.

### Application & Closing

Look around your actual life: your home, workplace, neighborhood, school, and church.

- Identify **one person or group** who has less power, less voice, or is more vulnerable than you.
- Ask God: "What does acting justly look like toward them this week?"

- Be specific. It could be a conversation, an offer of help, standing up for them, or connecting them with resources.
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### 3. DAY 3 - LOVING MERCY, NOT MEASURING IT

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#### Reflection Question

Whose failures do you mentally keep score of, and how is that affecting your willingness to show mercy?

#### Reading

- Micah 6:8
- Hosea 6:6
- Matthew 9:13
- Luke 15:28–32

#### Devotional Content

The Hebrew word often translated “mercy” or “kindness” in Micah 6:8 is HESED. This is a rich term describing loyal, steadfast love and covenant kindness. It’s not cold duty; it is warm, committed, unearned kindness. God says He DESIRES mercy, not sacrifice. He’s not impressed by religious activity when hearts are hard toward people.

Jesus confronts this in His own day. In Matthew 9, He quotes Hosea 6:6 to religious leaders offended that He eats with sinners. Their problem was not that they lacked discipline but that they measured mercy. They decided who deserved it. In Luke 15, the older brother embodies this attitude. He obeys yet when his wayward sibling is embraced and celebrated, he seethes. Mercy breaks his internal scoreboard.

We fall into the same trap. We often show mercy when people seem “sorry enough,” “tried hard enough,” or “paid enough” for what they’ve done. But God’s mercy moved toward us “while we were still sinners” (Romans 5:8). To “love mercy” means not only doing merciful things, but increasingly delighting to extend unearned kindness, especially toward those we feel least inclined to forgive.

## Application & Closing

Ask the Spirit to bring one person to mind, someone you've been measuring rather than showing mercy.

- Honestly, name your inner narrative about them: "THEY SHOULD KNOW BETTER," "THEY'VE HAD ENOUGH CHANCES," etc.
- Hold that narrative next to the mercy God has shown you in Christ.
- Ask God to soften your heart and give you at least one practical way to move toward them in mercy (a conversation, a kind gesture, dropping a grudge, ceasing to rehearse their failures).

Closing challenge: This week, intentionally do one **undeservedly kind** thing for that person, without announcing or justifying it—simply as a quiet reflection of your Father's mercy.

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## 4. DAY 4 - WALKING HUMBLY, NOT CONTROLLING OUTCOMES

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### Reflection Question

Where are you trying to manage outcomes instead of entrusting them to God in humble dependence?

### Reading

- Micah 6:8
- John 15:4-5
- Psalm 131:2
- Philippians 2:5-8

### Devotional Content

"Walk humbly with your God" is covenant language: a daily, ongoing journey, not a religious visit. In the ancient world, to "walk with" someone implied close fellowship, alignment, and shared direction. Humility in Scripture is not self-hatred; it is seeing God rightly and us rightly. It means recognizing our dependence and gladly yielding the role of "savior" and "controller" to the One who actually holds all things.

Jesus illustrates this in John 15: we are branches, He is the vine. Fruitfulness flows from remaining in Him, not from impressive independence. Apart from Him, we can do nothing of lasting spiritual value.

Most of us, however, slide into control. It can look like “being responsible,” yet underneath is a refusal to rest our weight on God. Philippians 2 reminds us that Jesus, though fully God, did not clutch His position. He emptied Himself, taking the form of a servant and obeying to the point of death. This is humility at its deepest and it is the mindset we’re called into as we walk with Him.

### Application & Closing

Identify one area where anxiety and control dominate.

- Ask: “what would it look like to walk humbly with god here instead of carrying this alone?”
- Practically, that might mean confessing your need to God, inviting others into prayer, making a wise plan, but surrendering the results, or releasing a timetable you’ve been clinging to.

Closing challenge: Take 10 minutes today to sit quietly before God (phone off, no multitasking). Simply acknowledge: “You are God, I am not. I choose to trust you with \_\_\_\_.” Let that confession interrupt your usual pattern of control.

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## 5. DAY 5 - JESUS: THE FULFILLMENT OF JUSTICE, MERCY, AND HUMILITY

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### Reflection Question

When you think about living justly, mercifully, and humbly, do you feel more pressure or more gratitude—and why?

### Reading

- Micah 6:8
- Romans 3:25–26
- Romans 5:8–10

## Devotional Content

Micah 6:8 can feel like a heavy checklist if we forget who Jesus is and what He has done. But Scripture insists that the requirements of God are fulfilled in Christ. Romans 3 shows that at the cross, God remains perfectly just. He does not ignore sin. Jesus is presented as a sacrifice of atonement, bearing the penalty our sin deserves. Justice is not set aside; it is satisfied.

Romans 5 then reveals that this justice flows from astounding love. Christ died for us not when we had begun to fix ourselves, but while we were still sinners and even enemies. Through His blood we are justified and reconciled to God. Mercy is not sentimental; it is costly and purchased at the highest price, the life of the Son of God.

In Jesus' life and death, we also see ultimate humility. Philippians 2 (yesterday's reading) captures this: the eternal Son willingly takes the lowest place, obedient even to a shameful cross. So, when we hear Micah's call to justice, mercy, and humility, we must first hear it as a description of Jesus Himself and then as a life now possible for us in him. We are not earning God's favor by living this way; we are responding to grace already given and empowered by His Spirit.

## Application & Closing

Consider where Micah 6:8 currently lands on you: crushing demand or joyful calling.

- Bring your sense of pressure, guilt, or striving into the light before God.
- Re-read Romans 3:25–26 and Romans 5:8–10 slowly, letting the words “demonstrate his righteousness” and “demonstrates his own love” sink in.
- Ask the Spirit to shift your heart from “I must do this to be loved” to “Because I am loved, I can walk in this.”

Closing challenge: Express your gratitude to God today in your own words, thanking Him specifically that justice has been satisfied in Jesus. Let gratitude be the fuel for one concrete step of action you take today.

# IV. SMALL GROUP RESOURCES

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## OPENING

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Welcome everyone and briefly re-center the group on Jesus and His presence with you.

Invite someone to open with a short, Spirit-led prayer, including themes like:

- Thanking God for speaking clearly through His Word.
- Asking for soft hearts ready to obey.
- Inviting the Spirit to expose areas of drift and bring encouragement.

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## THEMATIC RECAP

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This week's message from Micah 6:6–8 focused on what God truly requires of His people. Not more religious performance but lives shaped by God's heart. He has already shown us what is good: **to act justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with our God**. Jesus perfectly fulfills this call and empowers us to live it out.

### Core Highlights:

- God is not unclear about His will; our challenge is often responsiveness, not information.
- It is possible to stay near the things of God while drifting from the heart of God.
- Justice is action on behalf of the vulnerable, not merely awareness or agreement.
- Mercy is unearned kindness; we can do “good things” without actually loving mercy.
- Humility is daily dependence and trust, releasing control and walking with God.
- Jesus satisfies justice, extends mercy, and models humility at the cross.

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### ICEBREAKER (5-15 MINUTES)

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- **Question:** Without over-spiritualizing, if you had to summarize what you have thought God “wanted from you” most of your life, what would you say, and how has that shaped the way you relate to Him?

Allow everyone who wants to share briefly.

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### SCRIPTURE EXPLORATION

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#### PASSAGE 1: MICAH 6:6-8

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#### Discussion Prompts:

1. What stands out to you most in the people’s questions in verses 6-7? What do those questions reveal about their view of God?
2. In your own words, how would you summarize what God is NOT impressed by in this passage?
3. Break down verse 8: what might “to act justly” look like in everyday life—at home, work, school, or church?
4. What is the difference between occasionally SHOWING mercy and truly LOVING mercy?
5. How is “walking humbly with your God” different from occasionally turning to God when you’re in trouble?

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#### PASSAGE 2: ISAIAH 58:6 AND PROVERBS 21:13

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#### Discussion Prompts:

1. According to Isaiah 58:6, what does God call a true fast? How does this challenge a purely “private” or “internal” definition of spirituality?
2. Where have you seen the temptation to separate worship from justice in your own life or in the broader church?

3. Proverbs 21:13 is strong language. How does this verse impact the way you think about ignoring the needs of the poor or vulnerable?
4. How might our group grow together in being more attentive listeners to “the cry of the poor” around us (locally and globally)?

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PASSAGE 3: LUKE 15:28–32

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**Discussion Prompts:**

1. What emotions do you imagine the older brother is feeling in this scene? Which of those emotions can you relate to?
2. How does the father’s response to the older brother mirror the heart of God toward religious people who struggle with mercy?
3. In what ways can we be like the older brother? Close to the Father’s house but distant from the Father’s heart?
4. How might remembering God’s mercy to us soften our hearts toward people who frustrate us or “don’t deserve” another chance?

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GRAND SYNTHESIS PROMPT (ALL PASSAGES)

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- Looking at Micah 6:8, Isaiah 58:6, Proverbs 21:13, and Luke 15:28–32 together, how would you describe a life, and a church, that truly reflects God’s heart? What most encourages you about that vision, and what most challenges you?
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APPLICATION: GROWING IN JUST, MERCIFUL, HUMBLE LIVING

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As a group, discuss and identify **specific steps** you can take:

- **Personally:**
  - One justice-related step (e.g., advocating for someone, serving a vulnerable person, changing how you treat a coworker or neighbor).
  - One mercy-related step (e.g., initiating reconciliation, dropping a grudge, a concrete act of undeserved kindness).

- One humility-related step (e.g., releasing control in a specific area, inviting accountability, building a daily habit of dependence Scripture, silence, or simple prayers of trust).
- **Communally (as a group):**
  - Is there a local ministry or need where your group could regularly serve or partner to embody justice and mercy?
  - How could your small group rhythms better cultivate humility and dependence (e.g., more time in Scripture, space for silence, shared decision-making, vulnerable sharing)?

Encourage group members to write down **one step** in each category and share at least one with the group for mutual encouragement and accountability.

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### CLOSING

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Create space for prayer needs:

- Invite each person (or each household) to briefly share one area where they need help obeying Micah 6:8: justice, mercy, or humility.
- Note any specific needs related to vulnerable people or situations the group might act upon.

**Closing Prayer Prompt (for a group member to pray in their own words):**

- Thank God for clearly showing us what is good.
  - Ask for the courage to act justly where it will cost us.
  - Ask for hearts that LOVE mercy, not just perform it.
  - Ask for grace to walk humbly and dependently with Him this week.
  - Ask God to make your group a visible expression of His heart in your community.
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## LEADER NOTES

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- **Create a safe environment.**  
Model vulnerability yourself. Share honestly where you struggle with justice, mercy, or humility. This sets the tone for others to be real, not perform.
- **Watch the time.**  
Don't rush the Scripture exploration but also make sure you leave enough room for application and prayer. If discussion runs long, it's okay to focus deeply on one passage and return to others another week.
- **Guard against self-righteousness.**  
Discussions about justice and mercy can quickly turn into critique of "others." Gently steer the group back to personal and communal application: "WHAT IS GOD SAYING TO US?" rather than "WHAT'S WRONG WITH THEM?"
- **Encourage grace-filled obedience.**  
Remind the group regularly: we obey not to earn God's love, but because we ALREADY HAVE it in Christ. When people feel condemned or overwhelmed, point them back to Romans 3 and Romans 5.
- **Foster follow-through.**  
Consider checking in at the beginning of next week's meeting about the specific steps people committed to acts of justice, mercy, or humility. Celebrate even small steps as evidence of God's work.
- **Make prayer participatory.**  
Invite multiple people to pray short, simple prayers, rather than one long "wrap-up" from the leader. This helps the whole group grow in honest, Spirit-led conversation with God.