

1: Act Justly. Love Mercy. (Micah 6:1-8)

Are we taking the time to remember and applaud the kindness God has shown us, or are we taking His kindness for granted? Today we are reminded how God's goodness to us should impact how we should treat others.

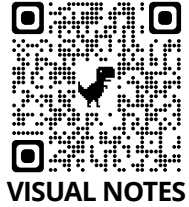


teachingnotes

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* Bible Translation: **NIV** (New International Version) & **NET** (New English Translation)



TODAY'S TEACHING

Micah was an Old Testament prophet (a man who spoke for God), telling the Hebrew people some things they really didn't want to hear, but things they *NEEDED* to hear.

✓ They had been told to **LOVE GOD** with every fiber of their being. The supernatural spillover is to...

✓ **LOVE PEOPLE**, to care for their neighbors like they cared for themselves.

✗ Rather than loving Yahweh God with all their heart, mind, & soul - **they followed false gods** (Micah 1:7; 5:12). NOT loving God like we should spill over into NOT loving people as we should.

- People laid in bed thinking about sin they could commit when they woke up (Micah 2:1).
- Leaders stole from their own people (Micah 2:2) & businesses cheated people (Micah 6:11).
- Judges accepted bribes and cheated people out of true justice (Micah 7:3).
- The land was full of liars (Micah 6:12) and murderers (Micah 7:2).

✗ When we don't LOVE GOD like we should, we won't LOVE PEOPLE like we should. If we disobey the God who created people, we will devalue the people God has created.

Micah Mini-Series Theme

Micah 6:8 (NIV) ...**act justly** and to **love mercy** and to **walk humbly with your God**.

Micah means "Who is like Yahweh." (**YaHWeH** = Hebrew term for **LORD** in your Bible). However, most of the people in Micah's day didn't act like Yahweh was awesome, so God calls on Micah to testify against His people.

Courtroom Drama

Micah 6:1-5 (NIV)

Listen to what the LORD [**YaHWeH**] says: "Stand up, plead my case before the mountains; let the hills hear what you have to say. "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.

"My people, what have I done to you? How have I burdened you? Answer me. **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. 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."

- God brought the people out of slavery from Egypt, giving them leaders who cared & helped provide for their needs.
- **Balak king of Moab** paid **Balaam** to CURSE the people, but God told Balaam to BLESS instead (Num 22-24).
- God moved the Hebrews across the Jordan River and into the Promised Land at **Gilgal** = "to roll".

Joshua 5:9 (CSB) The LORD then said to Joshua, "Today I have rolled away the disgrace of Egypt from you." Therefore, that place is still called Gilgal today.

- God brought them to the Promised Land & provided for them (water, meals, clothing, & HIS PRESENCE). God is asking, "*Who has treated you like I have?*"

“Who is like YahWeH?”

- **God created you.** Think about that for a second...there was a time that...*YOU DID NOT EXIST!!!* But Yahweh decided that HE would FORM inside your mother’s womb.
 - **God provides for you.** He put people in your life to care for and provide for you. He has healed your wounds and provided your meals.
 - **God paid for you!** Jesus was beaten, spit on, made fun of, scourged, crucified and took on OUR SIN on Him!
- ➡ Yahweh God CREATED US, PROVIDES for us, and PAID for us... “Who is like YahWeH?!?!?”

Can We Pay God Back?

Micah 6:6-7 (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? 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 can the people do to pay God back? This is the question they are asking.

- Maybe God will forgive us if we **bow down**. Or we could offer **calves a year old**, our most valuable animals to sacrifice. Maybe God will accept lavish sacrifices - **thousands of rams** and **ten thousand rivers of olive oil**.
- OR maybe we should give him our **firstborn** child as a sacrifice? Some wondered, “*Can my child's death pay for my sin?*” (This is what pagan nations did, but **this is NOT what God wants?**)

What does Yahweh want us to do?”

Micah 6:8 (NIV)

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**.

ACT JUSTLY

We are to treat people fairly and with value. Sadly, some people treat others poorly.

Proverbs 14:31 (NIV) Whoever oppresses the poor shows contempt for their Maker, but **whoever is kind to the needy honors God**.

Matthew 7:12 (NET) In everything, **treat others as you would want them to treat you**, for this fulfills the law and the prophets.

- ✓ We want to be treated with VALUE, therefore, we should treat others with VALUE, regardless of their abilities.
- ✓ We don't want to be *CHEATED*, so...we should never *CHEAT others*.

BIG TRUTH: HOW we BEHAVE shows WHO we BELIEVE.

When we treat people poorly it communicates 1 of 2 things:

1. The God we serve doesn't care about them...OR
2. We are hypocrites - not living what we say.

Jesus Confronts Hypocrisy

Matthew 23:23 (NIV) Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, **you hypocrites!** You give a tenth of your spices—mint, dill and cumin. But you have neglected the more important matters of the law—**justice, mercy** and **faithfulness**. You should have practiced the latter, without neglecting the former.

You blind guides! You strain out a gnat but swallow a camel. “Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You clean the outside of the cup and dish, but inside they are full of greed and self-indulgence. Blind Pharisee! First **clean the inside of the cup and dish**, and then the outside also will be clean.

Their lack of **justice & mercy** to others and their **faithfulness** to God revealed their messed-up motives. They didn't **Act Justly, Love Mercy**, nor **Walk Humbly with God**.

- ✓ People who long for **God's JUSTICE** will treat people fairly. We won't cheat, lie, steal, or slander.
- ✓ People who love **God's MERCY** will extend mercy...like it's been extended to us.

LOVE MERCY

This Hebrew word translated **mercy** is *hesed*, like a diamond with many glittering edges and angles brilliantly reflecting the characteristics of God - *mercy, grace, kindness, goodness, generosity, loyalty, & faithfulness*. It is this kind of mercy that we are to **LOVE** and *LIVE*.

② Do you have a story of a time that you NEEDED God's *hesed*? (Check out the **Discussion Starters** and share this with some others.)

HOW we BEHAVE shows WHO we BELIEVE. When we show *mercy, grace, kindness, goodness, generosity, loyalty, & faithfulness* it shows others WHO our God really is.

② When confronted with the reality that we haven't been *acting justly*, do we *LISTEN* to God's correction to change our behavior to start treating others with **VALUE** and **FAIRNESS**?

② When confronted with the reality that we haven't been *loving mercy*, do we *LISTEN* to God's correction by seeking His **MERCY** and extending that same **MERCY** to **OTHERS**?

John the Baptist Calls for Real Repentance

Luke 3:8-9 (NET) Therefore **produce fruit that proves your repentance**, and don't begin to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father.' For I tell you that God can raise up children for Abraham from these stones! Even now the ax is laid at the root of the trees, and every tree that does not produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire."

John warned that God has NO GRANDCHILDREN. You're either his child...OR you're NOT. **GOD'S CHILDREN** - those who actually belong to Him - will **produce fruit that proves genuine repentance**. Those who do NOT produce good fruit will be **cut down and thrown into the fire**.

What does "fruit" that proves repentance LOOK LIKE?

Luke 3:10-14 (NET) So the crowds were asking him, "What then should we do?" John answered them, "The person who has two tunics must **share with the person who has none** [MERCY], and the person who has food must do likewise." Tax collectors also came to be baptized, and they said to him, "Teacher, what should we do?" He told them, "**Collect no more than you are required to.**" [JUSTICE] Then some soldiers also asked him, "And as for us—what should we do?" He told them, "Take money from no one by violence or by false accusation [JUSTICE], and be content with your pay." [MERCY = Grateful for God's provision] * brackets are insights, not Scripture

Genuine repentance and trust in God impacts how we treat others. **HOW we BEHAVE shows WHO we BELIEVE.**

TAKE SOME NOTES HERE!

FEET2FAITH

- 🕒 **Appreciate & Applaud God's Justice & Mercy.** Start your day by thanking God for His Justice & Mercy in your life! God has treated you with VALUE & shown us MERCY through the Lord Jesus's death on the cross! Our sins are forgiven because of God's Justice & Mercy!
- 🕒 **Show God's Justice & Mercy to others.** Look for opportunities to treat others with value & fairness. Extend mercy to those in physical or spiritual need. Take the opportunity to impact others for eternity!

heretoserveyou

Have questions and need some help? ...real soon...how about now? Please **call** or **text** us soon!

- * Contact **Jackie** (850-673-1582), **Justin** (704-618-6144), **Christy** (850-673-9764), or another follower of Jesus soon!
- * Or call our **deacons & wives**: Alan & Christy Androski (850-464-1428), Steve & Debbie Bass (850-673-7952), Tim & Joni Hughey (850-464-1156), Mark & Dot Mancil (850-253-5405), Boss & Amelia Mulkey (850-464-6717), Jim & Derita Pinkard (850-464-6188), Fain & Linda Poppell (850-464-1282), or Tom & Martha Waddail (850-973-0011).

DISCUSSION STARTERS

1. What challenged/encouraged you most from today's teaching? Explain why that was most impactful to you.
2. **Read Micah 6:1-5.** What did God do to prove His goodness to the Hebrew people? How has God shown His goodness to you?
3. Remember the Hebrew word **HESED**, translated as "mercy"? Talk about the depth and differences of these characteristics (*mercy, grace, kindness, goodness, generosity, loyalty, & faithfulness*).
4. Share about a time that you NEEDED God's **hesed** and share how that was shown through his people.
5. Read what Jesus (Matthew 23:23-26) and John (Luke 3:8-14) and explain the differences between hypocrites and those who have genuinely repented.
6. Today's **BIG TRUTH: HOW we BEHAVE shows WHO we BELIEVE.** Explain what that means and why it matters.
7. Share your prayer needs and lift each other up to our God Who listens!