

Reset Part 1 *Aiming for the Right Things*

Message to Conversation Guide

Micah 6:6-8

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.** NIV

Discussion Questions

1. The people, southern Kingdom (Judah), in Micah's day were going religious rituals without living out the real values God cared about. This was constant theme in the OT. How can we be guilty of the same mistake?

Isaiah 29:13

*13 The Lord says:
"These people come near to me with their mouth
and honor me with their lips,
but their hearts are far from me.
Their worship of me NIV*

Matthew 15:8

8 These people honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me. NIV

2. **Micah 6:8** focuses on what we should do not what we should avoid doing. Often Christianity is more focused "the shall nots" rather than "the shall do." Discuss how this passage discusses doing right things rather than avoiding wrong things.
3. If we are engaged in doing good it is likely that we will avoid doing what is not good. According to Samuel the prophet what is the most important element of serving God? What does the pharisee in the passage below focus on doing good or avoiding evil?

1 Samuel 15:22

22 But Samuel replied: “Does the LORD delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices as much as in obeying the LORD? **To obey is better than sacrifice, and to heed is better than the fat of rams.** NIV

Luke 18:9-14

9 To some who were confident of their own righteousness and looked down on everyone else, Jesus told this parable: 10 “Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. 11 **The Pharisee stood by himself and prayed: ‘God, I thank you that I am not like other people—robbers, evildoers, adulterers—or even like this tax collector.** 12 **I fast twice a week and give a tenth of all I get.’**

13 “But the tax collector stood at a distance. He would not even look up to heaven, but beat his breast and said, ‘God, have mercy on me, a sinner.’

14 “I tell you that this man, rather than the other, went home justified before God. For all those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.” NIV

4. Discuss the difference between sins of commission and sins of omission.

Orthodoxy - orthodox belief or practice; that is belief in the right things.

Orthopraxy - correctness or orthodoxy of action or practice.

James 4:17

17 **If anyone, then, knows the good they ought to do and doesn't do it,** it is sin for them. NIV

5. Read and discuss John Wesley's famous quote.

*Do all the good you can,
by all the means you can,
in all the ways you can,
in all the places you can,
at all the times you can,
to all the people you can,
as long as ever you can.*

John Wesley

6. What does the phrase “O Mortal” imply? Who does this include?
7. Discuss the threefold challenge of Micah: to act justly, to love mercy and to walk humbly with God.