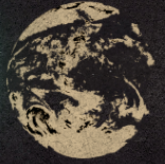


Justice and Mercy
Micah 6:1-8
June 26, 2022

REACH
AN INVITATION INTO GOD'S MISSION



It's pretty safe to say that we all want to be good people who live good lives. Christians, in particular, hold this as a vision for our lives. We want to be like Jesus. We want to stand before God when we die and hear, "Well done, my **good** and faithful servant, enter into the joys of your Lord." But what does a good life consist of? What is a good person defined by?

An interesting exercise would be to venn diagram it. If a good life consisted of three key interlocking priorities or practices, what would they be? Micah 6:8 offers a compelling answer.

1. Read Micah 6:1-8.
 - Why do you think God and his people were disputing?
 - Micah 6:8 clearly states how God defines the good life—but, by way of contrast, how did the people define it? (For added insight, read Isaiah 58.)
2. The first component of a good life, doing justice, is itself comprised of the three parts: fairness, fullness, and fellowship (identifying with those who suffer). Discuss these, thinking about how we as a church family can "do justice" together.
 - Where do you see or experience the grossest forms of unfairness in our world?
 - Do you see people who are not experiencing fullness or flourishing? How can we help?
 - Do you have any real relationships with vulnerable people—orphans, widows, the poor, the alien? If not, how might you pursue a connection?
3. The second component of a good life is to love kindness (or mercy). That is, essentially, to have an emotional default toward kindness, mercy, and love.
 - On a scale of 1 – 10, how much do you naturally "love kindness"?
 - Are there disciplines or practices that have helped you grow at this emotional level? Explain.
4. The third component of a good life is to walk humbly with God. This is an awareness of him as the great Reality of our lives that causes us to be careful, mindful, and attentive.
 - What struggles do you have in living consistently from this motivational center?
 - What helps you move back to center when you've strayed from it?
5. How is Jesus the embodiment and fulfillment of Micah 6:8 for us? How does seeing him in this text help us?

