

What Does the LORD Require of You?

Micah 6

The Court is back in Order! Micah 's summons: The Lord has an indictment

“Hear what the LORD says:
Arise, plead your case before the mountains,
and let the hills hear your voice.
Hear, you mountains, the indictment of
the LORD,
and you enduring foundations of the earth,
for **the LORD has an indictment against his people,**
and he will contend with Israel.” (v.1-2)

The Lord’s Defense: His righteous acts

“For I brought you up from the land of Egypt
and redeemed you from the house of
slavery,
and I sent before you Moses,
Aaron, and Miriam.
O my people, remember what Balak king of
Moab devised,
and what Balaam the son of Beor answered
him,
and what happened from Shittim to Gilgal,
that you may know the righteous acts of
the LORD.” (v. 4-5)

The Lord Speaks

“**O my people,** what have I done to you?
How have I wearied you? Answer me!” (v.3)

The Lord’s Righteous Acts

1. REDEMPTION

Brought His people out of slavery (700 years prior)

“There is no chronological chasm between ancient event and contemporary people. Yahweh’s redemption does not expire and transcends time and generation.”

Was liberation boring? Does release from years of slavery make you yawn? Is the Exodus story wearisome?

2. LEADERSHIP

He did not leave them to wander aimlessly, but gave them shepherds and direction (Moses, Aaron, Miriam)

“You led your people like a flock
by the hand of Moses and Aaron.” Psalm 77:20

3. PROTECTION

King Balak told Balaam to put a spell on Israel so that he would defeat them, but Yahweh restrained Balaam. (Numbers 22-24)

From Shittim to Gilgal: all that happened in the course of Israel crossing the Jordan (Josh 3-4)

Was that boring? Simple? Have you forgotten?

REMEMBER...Have you forgotten?

To Remember: (Psalm 103)

- Not to merely know pieces of data
- Not a recollection of events
- To view all of life through the lens of what the Lord has done
- What grips you and moves you and drives you
- To reflect upon the evidences of His grace and be moved to repentance and obedience

The People Respond

“With what shall I come before the LORD,
and bow myself before God on high?
Shall I come before him with burnt offerings,
with calves a year old?
Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of
rams, with ten thousands of rivers of oil?
Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression,
the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?”
(v.6-7)

“And Samuel said,
‘Has the Lord as great delight in burnt offerings
and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of
the Lord? Behold, to obey is better than
sacrifice, and to listen than the fat of rams.’”
1 Samuel 15:22

What external sacrifice can I bring to the Lord?

- Will He be pleased with costly worship?
- Will He be pleased with extravagant worship?
- Will He be pleased with the most extreme sacrifice?
- Will He be pleased with more giving to missions?
- Will He be pleased with more volunteering in children’s ministry?
- Will He be pleased with more seminary classes?
- Will He be pleased with more public service?
- Will He be pleased with more things and acts and deeds?

Micah Declares: “He has told, O man, what is good...”

“He has told you, O man, what is good;
and what does the LORD require of you
but to do justice, and to love kindness,
and to walk humbly with your God?” (v. 8)

He has told you what is good...

- In the Law and the Prophets

To do justice

- To live out the Law

To love kindness

- The attitude behind the action
- To delight and rejoice in doing justice
- To love “hesed”
 - Loving kindness, steadfast love, mercy, unfailing love
 - God’s covenantal love

- ‘The Lord, the Lord, a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness, keeping steadfast love for thousands...” Exodus 34:6-7
- *Hesed* is not merely an emotion but involves action towards another.
- *Hesed* describes a sense of love and loyalty that inspires merciful and compassionate behavior toward another person.

To walk humbly with your God

- To live lowly before the Lord
- To live thoughtfully
- In communion with “your God”

He has told you, O man

- “For I desire steadfast love and not sacrifice, the knowledge of God rather than burnt offerings.” Hosea 6:6
- “To do righteousness and justice is more acceptable to the LORD than sacrifice.” Proverbs 21:3
- “For you will not delight in sacrifice, or I would give it; you will not be pleased with a burnt offering. The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.” Psalm 51:16-17
- “What to me is the multitude of your sacrifices? says the Lord; Wash yourselves; make yourselves clean; remove the evil of your deeds from before my eyes; cease to do evil, learn to do good; seek justice, correct oppression; bring justice to the fatherless, plead the widow's cause.” Isaiah 1:11, 16-17

“And now, Israel, what does the Lord your God require of you, but to fear the Lord your God, to walk in all his ways, to love him, to serve the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul, and to keep the commandments and statutes of the Lord, which I am commanding you today for your good?”

Deuteronomy 10:12-13

TO FEAR THE LORD

The voice of the LORD cries to the city—
and [it is sound wisdom to fear your name:](#) (v.9)

The only way to do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with God, is to fear the Lord.

Fear of the Lord is:

The duty of man	“The end of the matter; all has been heard. Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the whole duty of man.” Ecclesiastes 12:13
The power against sin	“Moses said to the people, ‘Do not fear, for God has come to test you, that the fear of him may be before you, that you may not sin.’” Exodus 20:20
The root of all wisdom and knowledge	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge; fools despise wisdom and instruction.” Proverbs 1:7 • “The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the Holy One is insight.” Proverbs 9:10
The hatred of evil	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “The fear of the LORD is hatred of evil. Pride and arrogance and the way of evil and perverted speech I hate.” Proverbs 8:13 • “By steadfast love and faithfulness iniquity is atoned for, and by the fear of the LORD one turns away from evil.” Proverbs 16:6 • “Let not your heart envy sinners, but continue in the fear of the LORD all the day.” Proverbs 23:17

Leads to life and blessing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “The fear of the LORD prolongs life, but the years of the wicked will be short.” Proverbs 10:27 • “The fear of the LORD is a fountain of life, that one may turn away from the snares of death.” Proverbs 14:27 • “The fear of the LORD leads to life, and whoever has it rests satisfied; he will not be visited by harm.” Proverbs 19:23 • “Blessed is the one who fears the LORD always, but whoever hardens his heart will fall into calamity.” Proverbs 28:14
Produces humility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Be not wise in your own eyes; fear the LORD, and turn away from evil.” Proverbs 3:7 • “The fear of the LORD is instruction in wisdom, and humility comes before honor.” Proverbs 15:33 • “The reward for humility and fear of the LORD is riches and honor and life.” Proverbs 22:4
Greater than treasures	“Better is a little with the fear of the LORD than great treasure and trouble with it.” Proverbs 15:16

The Indictment

“Hear of the rod and of him who appointed it!
 Can I forget any longer the treasures of
 wickedness in the house of the wicked,
 and the scant measure that is accursed?
 Shall I acquit the man with wicked scales
 and with a bag of deceitful weights?
 Your rich men are full of violence;
 your inhabitants speak lies,
 and their tongue is deceitful in their mouth.”
 (v.10-12)

Guilty of idolatry and injustice.

The Sentence

Therefore I strike you with a grievous blow,
 making you desolate because of your sins.
 You shall eat, but not be satisfied,
 and there shall be hunger within you;
 you shall put away, but not preserve,
 and what you preserve I will give to the
 sword.
 You shall sow, but not reap;
 you shall tread olives, but not anoint
 yourselves with oil;
 you shall tread grapes, but not drink wine.
 For you have kept the statutes of Omri,
 and all the works of the house of Ahab;
 and you have walked in their counsels,
 that I may make you a desolation, and
 your inhabitants a hissing;
 so you shall bear the scorn of my people.”
 (v. 13-16)

All will be vanity and a chasing after the wind.

The fear of the Lord is a covenantal blessing

The New Covenant

“I will give them one heart and one way, that they may fear me forever, for their own good and the good of their children after them. I will make with them an everlasting covenant, that I will not turn away from doing good to them. And I will put the fear of me in their hearts, that they may not turn from me.” Jeremiah 32:39-40

“I will cleanse them from all the guilt of their sin against me, and I will forgive all the guilt of their sin and rebellion against me. And this city shall be to me a name of joy, a praise and a glory before all the nations of the earth who shall hear of all the good that I do for them. They shall fear and tremble because of all the good and all the prosperity I provide for it.” Jeremiah 33:8-9

In Christ Jesus

“There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse,
and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit.
And the Spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him,
the Spirit of wisdom and understanding,
the Spirit of counsel and might,
the **Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord.**
And his delight shall be in the fear of the Lord.” Isaiah 11:1-3

We are to REMEMBER the righteous acts of the Lord

REDEMPTION

“...but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.” Phil. 2:6-11

“But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved— and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus.” Ephesians 2:4-6

LEADERSHIP

- “And he put all things under his feet and gave him as head over all things to the church...” Eph. 1:22
- “And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ.” Ephesians 4:11-12

PROTECTION

- “The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.” 1 Corinthians 15:56-57
- “...And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.” Matthew 28:20b

**1. Fear of the Lord + 2. Remembering the Righteous Acts of the Lord
Allows one to do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with God**

DISCUSSION

1. How can we seek to live in the fear of the Lord?
2. Why do we need to constantly remember the righteous acts of the Lord?
3. The world is always talking about justice. How do we know if we are doing justice?
4. What is the difference in showing kindness and loving kindness? Who would know if you are loving kindness?
5. What is required to walk humbly with God?
6. What is the difference in reading verse 8 moralistically vs through a Gospel lens?

HOMEWORK

READ

Deuteronomy 10:12-22

REFLECT

1. Write down phrases that align with:
Doing justice

Loving kindness

Walking humbly with God

Fearing God

2. Verse 16 shows us the root of what must change: our hearts. In this verse, what is the opposite of having a circumcised heart?
3. How does stubbornness contrast with the fear of the Lord?
4. Where is stubbornness present in your heart, preventing a righteous fear of the Lord?
5. How would fearing the Lord and walking humbly with Him give you greater power to do justice and love kindness towards others in your life?

REMEMBER

“By this is love perfected with us, so that we may have confidence for the day of judgment, because as he is so also are we in this world. There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear. For fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not been perfected in love.” 1 John 4:17-18