

Requirements

I. Slide1 Intro: Requirements

- A. These are *Micah's Greatest Hits* of his 53 years of ministry.
- B. Micah is known as *the peoples prophet*, caring for *the hurting*, addressing *the leaders, the people, and himself*.
- C. Micah is amazingly comprehensive. He addresses idolatry, *seizing land from the weak, their refusal to listen to faithful preaching, robbing poor refugees, taking advantage of widows, taking away the inheritance of children, politicians failing to stand up for justice, peoples taking bribes in order to complete building projects, judges taking bribes, businessman cheating, people shedding innocent blood, people distrusting everyone in society*.

II. Slide2 REMEMBER (1-5) READ

- A. (1,2) **Plead your case** - denotes Yahweh's *covenantal lawsuit* against those guilty of breaking His laws.
 - 1. **Hills & mountains** - are *summoned to jury duty*. (i.e. strong foundation/ immovable **vs.** Good's fickle people). **They were to hear the testimony provided for by Yahweh as the prosecuting attorney**.
- B. (3-5) The language then moves to the language of *a husband pleading for his wife*.
- C. **Sometimes marriages suffer for a number of reasons**. From unrealistic expectations **to** communication problems, **to** failure to manage things at *home, work, and so on*.
 - 1. But often times it is from **a slow drift**. Which happens sometimes when a spouse takes the other spouse for granted. Or when he/she fails to show appreciation and gratitude for the other. What happens next is an *emotional coldness* sets in. Feelings are hurt, severely damaging the relationship.
 - 2. **That's what happened in the relationship between Israel and God**. God had not grown cold towards Israel, Israel took the Lord for granted! *Slow Drift*

D. (3,4) I have not *let you down* (3), I *brought you up* (4).

E. *Shittim* (E of Jordan) and *Gilgal* (W of Jordan) - are cities just on either side of the Jordan.

1. I have fulfilled all I said I would do.

F. It is good for us to *review* God's gracious acts toward us, & make sure we express gratitude to Him.

1. *Remember* the gospel. *Communion*, *do this in Remembrance of Me*.

G. (4,5) He lists 4 righteous acts God did for Israel.

H. He reminds them of what he did for them in the past (4,5) in order to motivate them to obedience in the future. An obedience marked by *justice, mercy and humility*.

III. Slide3 **REQUIRE (6-8) READ**

A. The Library of Congress was set up primarily to assist Congressmen in preparing laws. Numerous quotations from Scripture can be found w/in the walls of the library of Congress. Former President **Charles Eliot** from Harvard selected Micah 6:8 to be inscribed on the walls.

B. (6,7) They wanted to shove their *requirements* over into the *religious & ritual* realm.

1. *Don't we try the same?* We clock-in a few more "*religious work hours*" on our eternal time-card. *Or* we spout a few more verbal promises of obedience or holiness.

2. Like them, *we'll even bid higher ... if need be*. *God, how many do you want 1000 rams?* *But* of course, He doesn't want *extravagant gifts*, he wants our hearts.

C. (6,7) *with thousands of rams* - this and the other examples in this verse are *hyperbole*. Even if a worshiper could make such extreme sacrifices, they would not be enough. This is not what God is asking for.

D. Slide4a (8) *What do you give to the God that has everything?*

E. *Here*, Micah gives the answer from vs.6,7. *Summarizes basic Christian ethics*.

1. What God requires is *heartfelt love and obedience*.

- F. To do **justice** - A proper relationship with God also involves a proper relationship with one's neighbor. *Be fair in their dealings with others.*
1. **Justice**/mishpat - this is a biblical term. *Don't let the world hijack it.* This is our calling from God Himself!
- G. To love **kindness** - *Hesed* - steadfast love, faithfulness, loyal love, mercy, kindness.
1. This is the **attitude** underneath justice ministry.
 2. Lit. To have a great affection for all kind of acts. *To carry through on their commitments to meet **others needs**.* FSB
 3. **Mercy Ministry** is meeting needs through deeds.
 4. **Mercy** - *Blessed are the merciful, For they shall obtain mercy.*
 - a) The word **for** is not **causative** (cause) **but evidential** (evidence).
 - b) eg. *"the spring is come, **for** the birds sing."* The singing of the birds does not **cause** the coming of spring season, **but** it is the **effect & proof** of it.
 - c) **Thus**, we **show mercy** to others because **it has been shown** to us, *not to get it.*
- H. To walk **humbly with your God** - only here in OT (*saa-na*, to be *modest*) w/o arrogance. It is in direct opposition to the **pride & presumption** that drives people to be **self-centered & closed** to everyone else.
- I. **Slide4b** God had already said this in Deut.
1. Deut.10:12 *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.*
 2. Deut.10:18 *He executes **justice** for the fatherless and the widow, and loves the sojourner, giving him food and clothing.*
- J. **So**, doing **justice** is a way of **loving mercy**, which in turn is a manifestation of **walking humbly** with God.
- K. Micah 6:8 is a **response** to the gospel, **it is not the gospel** (you are not saved by doing this list), **rather** it is **the proper response** to what God has **required**.

1. This is a pattern in the OT. Just like the 10 Commandments, 1st the reminder I brought you out of Egypt, then obey these commands.
2. First, what He **did for** them, then what **He requires of them**.

IV. Slide5 **THE SINS (9-12) READ**

A. This centers upon *commercial crookedness*.

B. Slide6 (11) How should you go to work?

1. You should do all your work for the good of others.
 - a) We should all ask, how should I use my trade, my gifts, to bless the disadvantaged. (the opposite of what is going on here).
 - b) If you can raise fish that can be used all over the world (tilapia. aquaponics)
 - c) If you're a coffee roaster, how can you do that for the good of all others.
 - d) If you're an education, how can you use your gifts for the uneducated.
 - e) If you're in medicine, Law, Business, etc.
2. Work with Integrity.
 - a) We all should be known in the market places as honest people.
3. We are to work Evangelistically.
 - a) We are to be witnesses at work, without getting fired. Like, obey the rules at your work, while allowing to let your light shine in the darkness.
4. We should work Skillfully.
 - a) That is w/excellence. Whether that's delivering mail or delivering a message.
5. We should do our work Beautifully.
 - a) God made stuff that was pleasing to the eye. That's in us!
6. We should work Worshipfully. As unto the Lord.
7. We should work Gratefully. With gospel centered gratitude.
8. We should work Generously. Giving of our income. Jesus worked as a carpenter. God cares about how we work.

V. Slide7 THEIR PUNISHMENT (13-16) READ

- A. * (14,15) **Futility Curses** - a pastor from America was talking with a pastor in Africa, when the E. African pastor said, *America is Africa's God*. To which the American pastor responded, *what is your depression/suicide rate?* (It was unheard of there). Our prosperity hasn't cured anything. **Our rates of depression and suicide haven't been higher.**
- B. (16) **Omri & Ahab** - father/son 2 of the most wicked kings which ever ruled Israel.
1. **The nation suffered because they followed their bad examples.**
- C. Keywords: requirements, remember, sins, punishment.