

What the Lord Requires

Micah 6:1-8

1/11/04

Intro

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In Micah 6, the Lord addresses the situation as if it were a court and the jury is the mountains, the hills, and the foundations of the earth.

God has an indictment against His people saying in verse 3, “What have I done to do, how have I wearied you?”

It is as though God were saying *why are you making this so difficult? I have only wanted to bless you.*

He then answers those who have not understood God’s heart by answering the question, what is it that the Lord requires?

These, then, what the Lord desires to see in our lives.

I. Do Justice and Love Kindness

A. Do Justice

- To do justice is to treat people with honesty and fairness.

Proverbs 21:3, “To do what is right and just is more acceptable to the LORD than sacrifice.”

- **How we live is important to God.**

Isaiah 58:6-12 – God blesses the just.

- **If we believe that it is God who blesses our lives, then we will be willing to let go of the gain that comes dishonestly.**

B. Love kindness

- The word “kindness” in the Hebrew is “hesed.”
- It means mercy, lovingkindness, love that endures...
- **God says that He wants us to love this, meaning “delight in it.”**
- **God also tells us that if we give it, we will receive it.**

Matthew 5:7, “Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.”

- **The opposite is also true, “anger begets anger.”**

Illus – One of the easiest ways to have a pleasant life is to be pleasant. Literally, we reap what we sow.

Angry people make others angry and that makes them even more angry.

II. To Walk with Your God

A. In agreement with God

- To walk together requires that there is agreement.

Amos 3:3, “Can two walk together, unless they have agreed?”

- **This is what God requires, that there be a willingness of the heart to walk where God is going.**
- To walk together is to walk in the same direction.

Illus – You take walks with someone you like.

Illus – Enoch walked with God

B. At the same pace

- Unless two people walk at the same pace, they cannot walk together.
- **Notice in verse 6 Micah was answering the question, “With what should I come and bow myself before God?”**
- In their minds was the thought that a person would come and offer something to God and then get on with their lives. **This is not what**

God wanted, but rather, He wanted to walk together with them in a relationship of agreement.

Psalm 37:23, “The steps of a man are established by the LORD; and He delights in his way.”

- **If you’re walking with God, then you’re not sitting with scoffers.**

Psalm 1:1-3 – walking, then standing, then sitting.

C. Going somewhere

- With God, we’re not just taking a pleasant walk, but God is directing our steps so we will go where he wants us to go.
- He wants to give our lives purpose and direction and that comes from going where He sends us.

Illus- This also carries with it the thought of advancing; always growing. In two ways....

- **Filled with the fullness of God.**

Ephesians 3:16-19 – filled with the fullness

- **The maturity of Christ.**

Ephesians 4:13-16 – to the stature of Christ.

III. Humbly

A. It takes humility to grow in character

- We won't get very far if we are constantly led by how we feel.

Illus – A waiter must deny himself in order to be effective.

Matthew 16:24-25, Then Jesus said to His disciples, "If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross and follow Me. For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it; but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it.

- **Why don't we allow every thought that comes into our mind to be spoken?**

Illus – Some people think that husbands and wives should be so completely open with each other that they speak every word that comes to their minds.

Why don't we do this?

- Because others should not be exposed to the person I'm dying to.
- **Our thoughts are often raw and immature.**

2 Corinthians 10:5, "Casting down imaginations, and everything that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ."

B. Not filled with self

- If we're filled with self, there is little room to be filled with God.
- As John the Baptist said....

John 3:30, "He must increase, but I must decrease."

- **C.H. Spurgeon, the famous preacher once said, "If you are going up, then God is going down in your esteem."**
- **Christ in me is the hope of glory, but me in me is the hope of nothing.**

C. Not lifted up above our brother

- True humility is seen in how we consider others.
- Not in a pretend or fake humility, but sincerely considering others as important.

Philippians 2:3, "Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind regard one another as more important than yourselves."

- At the foot of the cross the ground is level.

Illus – President Bush and Angel Tree, the Prison Fellowship program for prisoners' children; He sees others with value.

Conclusion

Know that He is *your* God. That's what God desires.