

Summer 2020



Micah 6:8

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.

Reflection

In our Summer Series for A Year With Jesus five days a week until the end of January

we're spending five minutes or so reflecting over some of our favourite passages of Scripture. Many people have committed these verses to memory to recall to mind in times of need or as the opportunity arises in conversation. You might consider doing the same with the particular passages that speak most loudly to you. To this end, in these short talks, I'll repeat the passages often, with a view to making them as memorable as possible. Today's passage, from Micah 6:8, is a favourite amongst many Christians as it teaches us how God would have us live in his world.

Micah 6:8,

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The old adage is true. The more things change, the more things remain the same. It is true because human nature does not change, the human heart does not change, down throughout the centuries, without the direct intervention of God. And so Micah, a peasant farmer called from his humble origins to be a prophet to God's people, can preach in 700BC against the same failings that still blight the human race nearly three thousand years later. In Micah's day, just as in ours, Micah was called by God to preach against the collapse of personal and social values. The rich were oppressing the poor, human rights were being suppressed in the courts. Violence, deception and corrupt business practices

reigned. God's people were choosing affluence and influence over him; and the love of self over the love of neighbour. Sound familiar? They took great pride in their own strength, in their own military might. They were worshipping all the idols of this world in place of God; in place of religious and social leadership, degeneracy. And so, amidst fiery warnings of pending judgment, Micah preaches these beautiful, simple words that remain as true today as they were when he first spoke them almost three thousand years ago,

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.

God has shown us what is good. Justice. Mercy. Humility. And that is precisely what he requires of his people. Not half-hearted worship on Sundays to cover over a life of indulgence. Not a divided heart that chases material gods all week. Not people so caught up in their own material prosperity that they fail to see and feel in their hearts the oppression, injustice and corruption which mark the greater world in which we all live. In his character, in his person, in his actions and in his word God has shown us 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.

In response to his love, in response to his grace and in response to his character, God requires us to act justly, to love mercy and to walk humbly with him.

Think & Pray

This passage of Scripture asks questions of all of us. Do you act justly like God does? Do justice, equity and fairness in your business dealings and in your relationship with your children sit amongst your highest priorities? Do you love mercy? Do you love acts of kindness and compassion to the under-privileged, the refugee, the orphan, the widow? Do you love mercy enough to give your money away regularly, abundantly and sacrificially to reduce your living standards so you can raise the living standards of those who are least in our

world? And finally, are you walking humbly – not proudly – but humbly with your God? Because,

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Justice. Mercy. Humility. Repentance and prayer. If you're like me, these last two are what this passage will move you to. I don't always act justly, I don't love mercy enough, and I often walk proudly chasing all sorts of pursuits and pleasures and not humbly with my God. If you feel the same, close this time in repentance and prayer. And try and remember these words. God

would have those who love him become these words,

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