

Sermon, October 9, 2011
“Walking in Justice, Mercy, and Humbleness”, Micah 6:6-8
Pastor Thomas P. Bellhy

The Books of Prophecy

- Major Prophets: Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Daniel
- Minor Prophets: Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah, **Micah**, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi

Overview of Micah:

- The prophet Micah is the likely author;
- Micah (or Micaiah) means “Who is like the LORD”.
- The book is directed to the southern kingdom of Judah, but also prophesied on the fall of the northern kingdom of Israel (1:6-7).
- Contemporary of Isaiah, Amos, and Hosea.
- The time of the writings are sometime between 750 to 700BC.
- **Overall Outline of Micah:**
 - I. Judgment against Israel and Judah (Chs. 1-3)
 - II. Israel and Judah have hope (Chs. 4-5)
 - III. The Lord’s case against Israel (Ch. 6)
 - IV. Misery turns to triumph (Ch. 7)

Major Themes of Micah:

- God’s righteous judgment against sin.
- God’s offer of hope and salvation.
- God’s love for a people of justice, mercy and a humble walk with Him.

The message of Micah is God’s love for a people who make godly judgments/decisions, actively love mercy, kindness, and goodness all out of a humble walk with Christ.

1. God is continually concerned about your heart, not your works.

- **Micah 6:6-7** ⁶ *“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? ⁷ 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?”*
- You can go to worship service, sing in a choir or praise band, go to Bible studies, listen to Christian music, work at the food bank, serve in the soup kitchen, give your money to worthy causes, teach Sunday school, the list goes on and on...
- BUT, God is not interested in any of these coming from a heart that does not genuinely seek after Him
- Don’t get me wrong, it is very good to do these things, but if your heart is not in them and you are doing them to somehow build up credits to balance the scales of your life in the hope that God will look favorably on you in the day of judgment, you are doing all these things in vain!
- Remember the Book of Amos and his exhortation to the northern kingdom about empty worship being a part of moral decay
- The Lord does not hide how he wants us to live. He is clear in many parts of Scripture.

2. God requires justice, mercy, and a humble walk with Him.

- **Micah 6:8**⁸ *He has told you, O mortal, 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?*
- The people of the day were attempting to appease God with their sacrifices, instead of offering freely to Him out of the abundance He supplied.
- They were seeking God’s justice and mercy without walking humbly with Him.

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3. The life of a Christian is one that seeks to DO justice.

- Literally, do judgment
- We are to make judgments that reflect the righteousness of Christ
- **Isaiah 56:1** *Thus says the LORD, "Preserve justice, and do righteousness, For My salvation is about to come And My righteousness to be revealed.*
- **Isaiah 61:10** ¹⁰ *I will rejoice greatly in the LORD, My soul will exult in my God; For He has clothed me with garments of salvation, He has wrapped me with a robe of righteousness,*
- **Philippians 3:8-9** ⁸ *More than that, I count all things to be loss in view of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them but rubbish so that I may gain Christ, ⁹ and may be found in Him, not having a righteousness of my own derived from the Law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which comes from God on the basis of faith,*
- Micah speaks of the injustice done by covetous people with worldly desires to others in chapter two
- Every decision we make is to reflect Christ not the world, God calls us to take captive every thought to the obedience of Christ (2 Cor 10:5)
- Some say that the human life is the sum total of all of the decisions you have made.
- What would Jesus do? DO justice, make godly decisions!

4. The life of a Christian is one that seeks to love mercy.

- Literally, actively love mercy, kindness, goodness
- In other words we are to actively pursue kindness, mercy, goodness to others
- The very actions of justice and mercy that come from God are the very actions we are to pursue in our life with Christ as a reflection of what God has done for us.
- **Ephesians 4:32** ³² *Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you.*
- Were you worthy to be saved? Were you not a sinner who Christ died for? Has God forgiven you and brought you into his family, unworthy as you are?
- **Romans 5:8** ⁸ *But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.*
- This is the mercy we are to show to others always remembering the love, mercy, kindness, and goodness of God to us
- In the decision we make out of a heart of compassion we are to walk humbly with God.

5. The path that we travel through life is one best walked humbly following our Savior and God.

- Walking with God indicates an intimate fellowship. Walking with someone not only for a little way, but for your whole life allows you to come close, know them, hear them, talk to them...an intimate loving life-long relationship
- **Psalm 25:9-10** ⁹ *He leads the humble in justice, And He teaches the humble His way. ¹⁰ All the paths of the LORD are lovingkindness and truth To those who keep His covenant and His testimonies.*
- The humble are those who bow down and are subservient to the rule and commands of God, cautious and careful to follow God
- The humble are receptive to the precepts of God
- The humble seek to do justice and love mercy.
- The humble are willing to follow the Lord and “... walk humbly with your God.”
- **John 10:27** ⁷ *“My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me;*
- A humble walk is a walk of a disciple of Christ, willing to follow, learn and do what the Master commands.
- Do justice, love mercy, walk humbly with your God.

The message of Micah is God’s love for a people who make godly judgments/decisions, actively love mercy, kindness, and goodness all out of a humble walk with Christ.