

Community Group Discussion Questions

“What the Lord requires of us”

Micah 6:1-8

Guest Preacher: Pastor Shin Soh

Setting: The prophet, Micah, writes to bring God’s “lawsuit” against his people from chapter 3. He rebukes them for their sins, knowing that the Assyrian and Babylonian exiles are near for their judgment. The theme of this book is judgment and forgiveness. Though God will scatter his people because of their sins, He will also gather, protect, and forgive them.

Summary: We are in the season of Epiphany, a season of divine revelation. In today’s passage, God Himself brings a suit against His people. And in doing so, He reveals His will and the Gospel. What does the Lord seek from us? How then shall we live?

Sermon Points:

1. Listen... to what the Lord says
2. Remember... what the Lord has done
3. Live Well... in the Lord

Opening Question

1. What does a good Christian life look like?

(Answers may vary.)

We are taking a quick break from our “Church Beginnings” sermon series as Pastor Shin preaches from the book of Micah. Micah is a prophet around the time of the Assyrian exile, rebuking Israel for their sin, calling them to repentance, and reminding them of their covenantal Shepherd-King.

Read Micah 6:1-8

2. What has God revealed about His will to you?

(In vv. 1-2, we see Micah calling the people of Israel to listen to the Lord. We see that he is bringing an indictment against God’s people like a court case with all of creation being the judge and jury. They are in sin. They continue to disobey God and worship other gods. They don’t live righteously and seek justice, but they live for themselves.

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They distort the temple and the worship of God's people. They forget God's redemption, His law, and their covenant under Him.

In the same way, God speaks to us through His Word. He reveals His heart and will through the Scriptures. Like Israel, there is an indictment against us. We have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God. We have disobeyed His law and deserve condemnation and judgment. We don't live righteously and pursue justice. We distort the worship of God. We forget about the redemption we have in Christ, and we worship other idols.

In v. 3, God reminds His people and us of his covenant by calling them HIS people. He asks them if He has wronged them at all. God is reminding us of all the goodness that He has done for us. He has not wronged us at all but the opposite. He has loved us with a sacrificial love that cost Him everything.)

3. What are some things that God has done for you in your life?

(In vv. 4-5, the Lord reminds His people of what He has done. He brings into view the greatest act of redemption in the Old Testament, the Exodus. He redeemed them from the house of slavery in Egypt and sent them prophets (to reveal His will) and priests (to mediate between man and God). With references to Balak and Balaam, God is reminding them of His heart to bless them rather than curse them. The reference to Shittim to Gilgal reminds them of the last portion of their journey before the Promised Land. God is calling them to remember how He has been faithful to keep His covenantal promises and to bless them.

God has poured out many blessings upon our lives. I'm sure we can recount how God has been faithful and good from the little mercies to the great provisions. We can also probably recount God's grace amidst suffering.

However, like our passage, we must remember God's ultimate act of goodness and faithfulness in the sending of the Son. Like the Exodus, He has redeemed us from the house of slavery to sin. Jesus was the Passover Lamb slain so that our hearts may be covered. He was the One cursed on the cross, so that we may be blessed. He took on God's judgment, so that we may receive God's favor.

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4. What does it mean to do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly “with your God”? What makes it possible to do so?

(Vv. 6-7 show the sinful state of man. We try to buy and earn God’s favor. We think we can save ourselves. We try to match our good works with sin to tip the scales in our favor. However, the absurdity of these verses shows us that it is impossible to buy His favor and earn our salvation. Even thousands of rams, ten thousands rivers of oil or even a giving of the firstborn will be able to save us.

Sacrifices were given to the people to be an avenue for God to administer His grace and forgiveness to those who are humble and penitent. And the humble and penitent life will do justly, love mercy, and walk humbly.

Doing justly means to pursue righteousness. This is the obedient life, but it also includes ministering to the orphan, the widow, the poor, the weak, and the helpless. Mercy translated is the Hebrew word for the steadfast love and covenantal faithfulness of God. To love mercy means that we are to love the heart of God for us, and to love others with that mercy and faithfulness. Lastly, to walk humbly means that we have the heart of John the Baptist who said that he must decrease and Christ must decrease. We trust in the Lord and live for the Lord.

This is possible because of the work of Christ. He is the One who did justice. He obeyed to the point of death on the cross. He ministered and saved us who are poor, helpless, weak, sinful, and voiceless. He loved mercy and showed that mercy to us. He walked humbly, putting the will of the Father before His own. Through His life and death, we are able to walk in the same way.)

Final Thoughts: *Have you heard the word of the Lord? Have you confessed your sin and trusted in Christ? Do you count your blessings, including the ultimate blessing of Jesus? Do you try to be your own savior and earn God’s favor, or do you rest upon the finished work of Christ? Do you do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with the Lord? You are able to live this way, because you have been saved in this way through the life and death of our Savior King.*