

"WHAT DOES THE LORD REQUIRE OF YOU?"

Micah 6:6-8

INTRODUCTION

1. The text for our study is Mic 6:6-8...
 - a. A passage considered by many to be one of the most comprehensive and all-embracing statements in the Old Testament
 - b. "What does the Lord require of you?"

2. Micah answers his own question, and makes some important points...
 - a. Not only for the sake of Israel of his day
 - b. But for the benefit of the Lord's church today-- For as with all of the Old Testament, it was written for our learning - cf. Ro 15:4

[As we seek to learn from this passage, let's first consider the question...]

I. WHAT DID THE LORD REQUIRE OF ISRAEL?

A. WHAT ISRAEL MAY HAVE THOUGHT...

1. Some possibilities, even some absurdities:
 - a. Year-old calves as burnt offerings?
 - b. Thousands of rams?
 - c. Ten thousands rivers of oil?
 - d. Offering of the firstborn child?
2. Some observations:
 - a. God did indeed speak of some of these things
 - 1) Like the offering calves and rams - cf. Lev 1:1-13
 - 2) But the absurd amount of oil and offering of the firstborn are examples of hyperbole for the sake of emphasis
 - b. From the context, it appears ritualistic sacrifices alone did not please God
 - 1) One could not please God by simply offering innumerable sacrifices, even things precious to the worshipper
 - 2) For religious rituals properly ordained of God to be accepted, they must be accompanied by other things just as essential (see below)

B. WHAT GOD REQUIRED OF ISRAEL...

1. **To do justly**
 - a. This means "to act toward God and man according to the divine standard of righteousness revealed in His law."
(Hailey)
 - b. This did involve the offering of sacrifices commanded by God
 - c. But it also involved treating their fellow man in a way

that was right and fair
-- Failure to do "justly" was one of the main reasons Israel
went into captivity - cf. **Zec 7:8-14; 8:16-17**

2. **To love mercy**

- a. This means "to show a compassionate warm-heartedness toward man." (Hailey)
 - b. Not only treat others fairly, but to show mercy when mistreated themselves
- One reason they were to love mercy was because God Himself delighted in showing mercy - cf. **Mic 7:18-19**

3. **To walk humbly with your God**

- a. This involves living "in humble and submissive obedience to His desire and will." (Hailey)
 - b. It can only happen when we "recognize the absolute holiness and righteousness of God." (Hailey)
- It is the humble of heart and spirit that greatly pleases God - cf. **Isa 57:15; 66:1-2**

[These three things God required of those who would come before Him. Not instead of the ritual observances, but in conjunction with them (cf. **Mt 23:23**). Now for an application of our text to those who are Christians today...]

II. WHAT DOES THE LORD REQUIRE OF US?

A. WHAT WE MIGHT THINK...

1. Some might think all the Lord requires is the observance of certain rituals
 - a. Like attending church on Sunday
 - b. As though if one does this, they have done all that is required
 - c. I sometimes wonder if people really believe this
 - 1) That's the impression one receives by their example
 - 2) That's the answer often received from some
2. Certainly attending the services of the church is important
 - a. It is essential to obeying God - **He 10:25**
 - b. It is required if we expect to grow spiritually - cf. **He 10:24-25**
 - c. In fact, I am persuaded that failure to attend every service...
 - 1) Can be displeasing to God - cf. **Ep 5:15-17**
 - a) When absent, are we making the most of our time?
 - b) Do we really believe our absence is the Lord's will for us?
 - 2) Can explain the lack of several things
 - a) The lack of spiritual growth
 - b) The lack of commitment in the work of the church
 - c) The lack of close fellowship with God and other Christians

-- Yes, I am convinced that it is essential that we observe what "rituals" God has ordained for us; but the Lord requires more than just "attending church"

B. WHAT GOD REQUIRES OF US...

1. To do justly

- a. To act toward God according to His divine law - e.g., **Mt 7:21**
- b. To act toward man according to His divine law - e.g., **Ep 4:25-29**

2. To love mercy

- a. To show a compassionate warm-heartedness toward man
- b. Toward widows and the fatherless - **Jm 1:27**
- c. Even toward our enemies - **Lk 6:35-36**

3. To walk humbly with our God

- a. The only way to enjoy His fellowship and continual cleansing by the blood of Jesus - cf. **Jm 4:8; 1Jn 1:7-9**
- b. Such close communion and fellowship with God requires daily...
 - 1) Listening to God - studying His Word to learn His will - **Jm 1:21; 1Pe 2:2**
 - 2) Talking to God - praying for strength and forgiveness, praising Him for blessings received - **He 4:14-16; Php 4:6-7**
 - 3) Walking with God - by doing His will in humble submission - **Ep 5:2,8,15**

-- By walking humbly with God, we are more likely to keep in proper balance the demands to do justly and love mercy

CONCLUSION

1. Even though we live under a different covenant, the Lord still requires us...

- a. To do justly
- b. To love mercy
- c. To walk humbly with our God

-- **Our "rituals" may be different (with respect to worship), but the basics are still the same!**

2. Are you doing what the Lord requires of you? Consider this...

- a. Have you done justly (by obeying the gospel of Christ)?
- b. Do you love mercy (demonstrated by accepting God's mercy offered in Christ)?
- c. Are you walking humbly with your God (by living a dedicated and obedient Christian life)?

-- **If not, then all the church services you may attended, all the**