

Words of Mercy in the Minor Prophets

What Does the Lord Require of You?

“He has told you, O man, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you, but to do justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God” (Micah 6:8)?

What the Lord Required of Israel

- What Israel may have thought:
 - *Year-old calves as burnt offerings?*
 - *Thousands of rams?*
 - *Ten thousand rivers of oil?*
 - *Offering of the firstborn child?*
- The use of *hyperbole* emphasized God did not want merely ritualistic sacrifices from His people.

- What God *did* want from Israel:
 - “To do justly” – to act toward both God and their fellowman in righteousness according to God’s revealed will.
 - “To love mercy” – to show a compassionate warm-heartedness toward people, to treat them with fairness and mercy.
 - “To walk humbly with your God” – living in humble obedience to God, submissive to His desire and will.

What the Lord Requires of Us

- What we might think:
 - *We can fulfill God's will by attending worship services.*
 - *We can meet our responsibilities out of duty rather than desire.*
 - *We can take care of our own souls but not the souls of others.*
 - *We can meet our needs but not the needs of others.*
- While the Lord does indeed expect us in worship and to fulfill our places of service, He requires of us more!

- What God *does* want from us:
 - To do *justly* – we are right with God and we are fair with every single person, without exception.
 - To love *mercy* – to show a compassionate warm-heartedness toward everyone, even our enemies.
 - To walk *humbly with our God* – it is in Him that we live, move, and have our being; the meaning here is to *live* with God, to walk in His presence, cleansed by the blood of His Son.

*“Who is a God like You, pardoning iniquity
and passing over the transgression of the
remnant of His heritage? He does not retain His
anger forever, because He delights in mercy”
(Micah 7:18).*