

What Does the Lord Require?

Sermon by Andy Sochor

Text: Micah 6:6-8

If you ask various people what God requires of us, you will likely get many different answers. In our text, Micah revealed from God what He requires of man. This was revealed while the old law was in force. It has since been nailed to the cross (Colossians 2:14). However, the principles are the same. We will see that God still expects these things of us today.

More Than Sacrifices

- Micah began this passage by talking about the insufficiency of sacrifices on their own – sacrifices could be useless if their heart was not right (Amos 5:21-24; Malachi 1:10); increasing the quality or quantity of the sacrifices would not fix the heart problem (v. 7; cf. 1 Samuel 15:22)
- Often sacrifices were offered for sin (v. 7) – God did not want them to be content in sin; offering sacrifices did not make the sin OK; the same is true today; we can receive forgiveness (1 John 1:9), but God wants us to overcome sin (1 John 2:1)

What did the Lord require of them? What does He require of us?

Do Justice

- God wants us to treat others fairly (Matthew 7:12)
- To do this, we must see others as God sees them – made in God's image (Genesis 1:27); accountable to Him (Hebrews 4:13); able to be saved (John 3:16); therefore, we know the Lord shows no partiality (Acts 10:34)
- Because God shows no partiality, we must not either (James 2:1, 9) – all can be one in Christ (Galatians 3:28); the gospel is for all (Mark 16:15; Romans 1:16; Colossians 3:11)

Love Kindness (Mercy, KJV)

- In order to show mercy, we must recognize our own need for mercy – all have sinned (Romans 3:23)
- We must seek after God's mercy for ourselves – salvation is not possible without it (Titus 3:5); we cannot earn our salvation (Romans 6:23; Luke 17:10)
- We must be merciful toward others in order to receive mercy from God (Matthew 5:7) – through forgiveness (Matthew 6:12, 14-15), understanding (1 Thessalonians 5:14), benevolence (Galatians 6:10); mercy is not tolerance of sin (1 Corinthians 5:1-2), but mercy leaves the door open to teaching (Colossians 4:5-6)

Walk Humbly with Your God

- We must recognize our place before Him (Psalm 8:3-4; 100:3) – humility is necessary to properly receive His teachings (Matthew 5:3; James 1:21)
- We are to WALK humbly – live according to His will; our manner of life needs to reflect the life of one trying to walk with God (2 Corinthians 5:7; James 2:18)
- Walk with God – implies agreement (Amos 3:3); walk in the light as He is in the light (1 John 1:5, 7)
- Recognize Him as YOUR God – this is personal; we are seeking OUR OWN salvation (Philippians 2:12); we will not be saved by the actions of others (Ezekiel 18:20)

Conclusion

- If we want to please God, we can follow the same “formula” that Micah gave – overcome sin, deal fairly with others, love kindness/mercy, humbly obey the Lord
- God still requires these things of us – let us continually strive to live up to His standard