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A just weight
and balance

are the
LORD'S:

Thus saith the Lord...

- Our lesson for today continues from the book of Micah.

- Micah was like the prophet Amos,

- A man from the country sent to the city to bring the word of the LORD.

- His name means “**Who Is Like Jehovah**”

- The message of Micah **is very relevant for us** as we see that the culture and sins of **Israel** and **Judah** during Micah's day are the same sins and cultural **thinking in our day.**

- **Judges 17:4**

”Every man did that which was right in his own eyes.”

- The book of Micah has **a dual focus.**
- One focus is immediate for **Israel** and **Judah.**
 - The second is that Micah's prophecies **point forward to Jesus.**
- So as we look at the book of Micah **we are able to see the promises** that are available to us in Jesus

- **So what does God want**
from his people?
 - Micah is a prophet who is telling the people **that their sins** have brought judgment upon them from the Lord.

- **They are clinging to idols** rather than trusting in the Lord.
- They are **oppressing** the poor.
 - The leaders are failing to provide justice **to the innocent.**
 - The false prophets preach their message **for money.**

- In each message, Micah has declared **two things:**

- **# 1** **A coming judgment** for their sins.

- **# 2** **A future restoration** once the judgment is complete.

- **But what does God want?**
 - **The answer**
teaches us about
the character of God
and
what God wants
from us.

- The Lord's Case is stated: (6:1-5)
- Micah 6:1 Listen to the LORD's case against Israel. Arise, O LORD, and present your case; let the mountains and the hills hear what you say.
- 6:2 The LORD has a case against his people. He is going to bring an accusation against Israel.
 - 6:3 The LORD says,
"My people,
what have I done to you?
How have I been a burden to you?
Answer me."

- **The question is very simple.**
 - **What** has the Lord done that you have decided to leave him?
 - **What** has God done to make your life a burden?
 - **In Micah 6:4-5**
the Lord defends himself.

- **Micah 6:4**

***I brought you
out of Egypt;***

***• I rescued you
from slavery;***

***• I sent Moses, Aaron,
and Miriam
to lead you.***

- **Micah 6:5**

My people, remember what King Balak of Moab planned to do to you and how Balaam son of Beor answered him.

- ***Remember the things that happened on the way from the camp at Acacia to Gilgal.***

- ***Remember these things and you will realize what I did in order to save you."***

- **God's declaration is very simple.**
- All that he has done for Israel **is take care of them.**
- All that he has ever done **is give them blessings.**
 - **How** has God been a burden to you?
 - **How** has God been a weariness to you?

- He set you **free** from your slavery.
 - He gave you the **leaders** you needed to succeed.
- He **blessed you** on your journey.
 - He **conquered** your enemies.
- He performed **miraculous** acts to see God's love and power toward you.
 - **How** has God wearied you?

- God could have **the same indictment** against us when our lives look like the people of Israel.
- When we act like **it is such a weariness** to be a Christian, God has a charge against us.

- When we act like **it is such a burden** to worship him or give our lives to him, God has a case against us.
- **How** has the Lord wearied us?
 - **How** can we possibly think that the Lord has been a burden to our lives?
- **When** the Lord has set us free from our slavery to sin.

- It had been around **800 years** since the exodus.
- But God wanted them **to continue to look back** to that exodus as the defining moment for their lives.

- So what is God asking the people to do?

- How does God want us to come to him?

- Does God want burnt offerings when you come into his presence?
- The answer is no.

- Would God be pleased if you offered him thousands of rams?
- The answer again is no.

- Should you bring 10,000 rivers of oil?
- Again, the answer is no.

- Does God want you to offer

your firstborn child

for your sins?

- **No!**

- God does not want you to do the impossible.
- God is not asking you to perform a bunch of religious acts.
- The denominational world defaults into this kind of thinking.

- How can I gain God's approval?
- I will go to church every week.
 - I will give more money to the Lord.
- I will do this and do that.
 - But this is not what God is looking for in his people.

- God is not a pagan god that needs appeasing.
- He is not the volcano god that needs a sacrifice before he erupts.

- Neither is God impressed with our religious actions.
- You must not think of the Lord God what men have created him to be.
- So what does God want?

Micah 6:8

What does the LORD require of you, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God? ²⁷

- **Sacrifice** is not wrong.
 - **It is commanded!**
 - **How** we might ask?
- Christians are commanded to present themselves ***"a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God"*** (**Romans 12:1**).

- The sacrifices that Christians must offer are

"spiritual"

(1 Peter 2:5);

- But they are still **sacrifices.**

- **In Micah 6:6-8**

God was
not abolishing
the institution
of sacrifice.

- The thing that was wrong with Israel's sacrifices was the fact of their supposing that as long as they offered them it did not make any difference to God what they did.

- **Micah 6:8** (ESV)

He has told you, O man,

- **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?**

- God is not asking you to do the impossible.

- God is not asking for a bunch of religious activity.

- God wants you to do right by people,
 - Love kindness and mercy,
 - And live an obedient life with God.

- **Micah 6:6**

asked how should we
come before the Lord?

- **Micah 6:8**

is the answer.

- You come before the Lord,
not with your gifts and sacrifices,

- But with your humble heart
that loves mercy
and does what is right.

- This is one of the **most popular passages** in the whole Bible,
 - And one of the **most misunderstood and abused.**

- **This passage does not say:**

That true worship of God
is man's service
to his fellow man..

- This passage proclaims
the futility of
ritualistic worship.

- **What is our response**
to a world of
wickedness,
sin and injustice?
 - What does
faithfulness
look like
in a broken world?

- **Our response is to:**
- Not act like the world.
- To show a transformed life to the world.
 - Do what is right and fair.
 - Show mercy and kindness.
- Walk in obedience with the Lord.
 - Jesus said the same thing when he was teaching the people.

- **“Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites!**
 - **For you tithe mint and dill and cumin,**
 - **And have neglected the weightier matters of the law:**
 - **justice and mercy and faithfulness.**
 - **These you ought to have done, without neglecting the others.**
 - **You blind guides, straining out a gnat and swallowing a camel!”**
- (Matthew 23:23–24 ESV)**

- Notice that Jesus highlights the same points that Micah highlighted to the people of Israel.

- The scribes and Pharisees approach to God was **to focus on the details.**

- But failed to show **justice**, **love**, **mercy**, and walk humbly with the Lord.

- This was the problem in Micah's day:

**They maintained
their sacrifices**

but did not love the Lord.

- **People will do the same today.**

- So the pendulum gets pushed **to the extreme.**

- Jesus did not condemn the Pharisees for paying attention to the details of God's commands.
- He condemned them for neglecting the weightier parts of the Law in order to focus on the details.

- **God wants us to be**
so captivated by how he
rescued us from
our slavery to sin through.
- **That we will desire to:**
 - Do right,
 - Love mercy,
- Walk humbly with the Lord.

- **Walking humbly**
with the Lord
means
listening to
what he says to do.

- **Humility**
before the Lord
means
obedience to the Lord.

- This is what **Micah proclaimed.**
- That is what **Jesus proclaimed.**
- **Are we listening?**

- Does God have a case against us?

- Have we followed in the path of Israel?

- God is not asking for us **to do the impossible.**
- God is not asking for a bunch of **mindless religious acts.**
- God wants your heart **to be changed:**
 - To love him,
 - To love others,
- And follow His commands.

- One of the problems that we humans have is that we perceive **God's tolerance as permission.**

- We think because God has not acted **that we are getting away** with our sins.
(Micah 2:6-7; 3:11).

- We have been looking at the prophecy of Micah which helps us understand how to maintain faith while living in times of great wickedness.
- In this final prophecy of Micah, he has declared what God wants.
(**Micah 6:1-8**).

- So in the final analysis what kind of God has Micah revealed?

- *Who is a God like you, pardoning iniquity and passing over transgression...?*
(Micah 7:18)

- We have seen in this prophecy that the people are worthy of God's wrath.

- The people are worthy of God's judgment.

- There is wickedness and injustice everywhere.

- But who is a God like this God who pardons our sins,
 - Forgives our transgressions?
 - We have a God who does exactly the opposite of what we deserve!

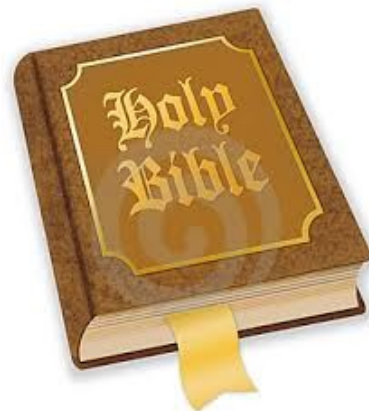
- **Micah 7:18** .
 - He does not stay **angry** forever,
 - But delights in showing **mercy**.
- ***He casts our sins into the depths of the sea.. (Micah 7:19).***

- **Think on these things**
- **Philippians 4:8**

**The doors of the church
are open.**

**The Spirit and the Bride
Say
“Come”.**

Revelation 22:17



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