



What Does the LORD Require of You? Micah 6:8

“He has told you, O man what is good; And what does the LORD require of you except to be just and to love [and to diligently practice] kindness (compassion), And to walk humbly with your God [setting aside any overblown sense of importance or self-righteousness] Micah 6:8 (Amplified)

I. OVERVIEW

A. Micah’s Question: *The prophet Micah asks the most crucial question amid injustice and violence in 8th-century B.C.E. Judean society - “What does God expect of you?”*

1. God has done all the heavy lifting.
2. God doesn’t test our obedience; He test our love...it is a heart issue.

B. Yahweh’s Chesed, Lovingkindness: Occasional translation of the Hebrew, Chesed. The OT’s highest expression for love. It is variously called God’s election, covenant-keeping love, or steadfast love. It is love that remains constant regardless of the circumstances. Although used mostly of God, it sometimes is used of love between people.

Therefore know [without any doubt] and understand that the Lord your God, He is God, the faithful God, who is keeping His covenant and his [steadfast] lovingkindness to a thousand generations with those who love him and keep His commandments... Deuteronomy 7:9 (Amplified)

C. Chesed is Committed Love: No word exists in our culture to adequately describe *Chesed*. It emphasizes a covenant has been made, sealed, completed...blood was shed, meal shared; it results in a bond a union where two parties have become one functionally. They have merged to face life together as one. Covenant is the total giving of one’s self, the highest form of love...gives itself to and for another. Heb 13:5- “Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you” ...and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.” Two parties are bound together in life...covenant means that functionally there is no separation between the two parties. The Gospel implies that God the Father, God the Son, and the Holy Spirit have entered into covenant with humans via the cross. God has made available to us His Life and Light and Love...pouring into every facet of our lives. (Malcolm Smith)

D. What Does God Expect of Us?

1. *Return on Investment:* Live out a greater measure of the blessings He’s poured into your life.
2. *Consistent Repentance:* Sincere repentance when we shrink back and miss His mark
3. *Run to Him and Start Over:* When we do, hit delete and come running to Him.
4. *Stay in Community:* Stay committed to church community...no more excuses here...

E. Three Ways to Face Challenge (Three Attitudes)

1. *The Pessimist:* complains about the wind. Cf. Do not judge by appearance [superficially and arrogantly]
2. *The Optimist:* expects it to change. Cf.Pr.1:32, the careless ease of[self-righteous] fools will destroy them.
3. *The Realist:* adjusts the sails.”-quick DCJ Story-brokenness leading to repentance...

F. Reflections

1. *God Keeps it Simple:* 1. Eliminations and 2. Adjustments
2. *Life is Hitting Us:* In this season of challenge, difficulty, and uncertainty...life is hitting people square on.
3. *What is God Saying to You?* Are you willing to lovingly obey, no matter the cost?
4. *Sowing and Reaping:* What we sow right now, will determine who we are later...
 - a. “wise men do now what fools attempt to do later.” (Warren Buffet)
5. *Focus Point:* Store up a treasure of good decisions NOW, during tough times...Why?

- a. *compound effect*...the accumulative effect of everyday small decisions...lead to either a positive compound result or a negative compound result.

II. DECAY, DECEPTION, & IDOLATRY

A. Secret Decay: “People fall in private, long before they fall in public. The tree falls with a great crash, but the secret decay which accounts for it, is often not discovered until it is down on the ground.”
(J.C. Ryle)

1. **Question:** What does your private life with God look like? It will determine how you handle your liberty in Christ, and It will mean the difference between verdant growth or secret decay...
2. **Reflections:**
 - a. *faith connecting to obedience:* The level of faith that one lives out daily is in direct proportion to the amount of truth that one believes
 - b. *The Holy Spirit controls the revelation... I love those who love Me; And those who seek me early and diligently will find Me...The cry of wisdom.* Proverbs 8:17 (Amplified)
 - c. “no more wasting time” from Raymond’s 90-day prayer journal
 - d. *stewarding the crisis:* Let us (the believers in Yeshua) not waste a good crisis!
3. **Walking as Sons:** *21For the others [who deserted me after my arrest] all seek [to advance] their own interest. 22But you know of Timothy’s tested worth and his proven character, that he has served with me to advance the gospel like a son serving with his father.* Philippians 2:21, 22
 - a. Son: Teknon; related to tikto-to bring forth (5088) to beget, bear, Child; used both in the natural and the figurative senses. giving prominence to the fact of birth, whereas huioi (5207) son in a generic sense, stresses the dignity and character of the relationship. In the narrative of His human birth, Jesus Christ is never designated as teknon, or teknon Theou, a child of God. But always ho Huioi, the Son or the Son of God or the Son of Man (Mt. 1:21,23, 25; Lk. 1: 31; 2:7). Only His mother called Him teknon (Lk. 2:48) as she viewed Him in His humanity. Jesus never presents Himself in His Godman consciousness as a teknon of man or of God. He was only huioi (5207), denoting relationship of character with the Father God, not giving the idea He was a mere child of the Father. He was Mary’s teknon but God’s Son, huioi (5207).

B. Deception: to meander from truth, safety and/or virtue

C. Idolatry - The 9 Idols of The World: 1. Wealth; 2. Beauty; 3. Power; 4. Worldly Knowledge; 5. Reputation; 6. Sexual Pleasure; 7. Needs; 8. Self; 9. Belief System...#1 IDOL...prevents people from accepting the gospel of Christ...others from moving deeper into Him.

Do not eat the bread of a selfish man or desire his delicacies; Vs.7 For as he thinks in his heart, so is he [in behavior-one who manipulates]. He says to you, “Eat and drink,” Yet his heart is not with you [but it is begrudging the cost]. Proverbs 23:6,7 (Amplified)

1. **Universal Example:** Lucifer - “*But you said in your heart, ‘I will ascend to heaven; I will raise my throne above the stars of God; I will sit on the mount of assembly in the remote parts of the north. I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will make myself like the Most High.’* Is.14:13,14 Cf Eze. 28:12-18.
2. **Reflection:** The idolatry of faulty belief system causes and advances an offence of heart towards God.

III. YHWH’S PROMISES & PROCESS

A. Personal Destiny: “Watch your thoughts, they become your words; watch your words, they become your actions; watch your actions, they become your habits; watch your habits, they become your character; watch your character, it becomes your destiny.” (Lao Tzu)

1. “Self-control is strength; Right thought is mastery; Calmness is power.” (James Allen)

B. Introductory Questions

- When you think about the goodness of God, what adjectives come to mind?
- What about the personal goodness of God in your life?

- Is He more?

- C. Birthright:** *3For His divine power has bestowed on us [absolutely] everything necessary for [a dynamic spiritual] life and godliness, through true and personal knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and excellence. 4For by these He has bestowed on us His precious and magnificent promises [of inexpressible value], so that by them you may escape from the immoral freedom that is in the world because of disreputable desire, and become sharers of the divine nature. 2 Peter 1:3, 4*
- D. Process:** *growing in spiritual qualities/virtues, 5For this very reason, applying your diligence [to the divine promises, make every effort] in[exercising] your faith to develop moral excellence, and in moral excellence, knowledge (insight, understanding), 6and in your knowledge, self-control, and in your self-control, steadfastness, and in your steadfastness, godliness, 7and in your godliness, brotherly affection, and in your brotherly affection,[develop Christian] love[that is, learn to unselfishly seek the best for others and to do things for their benefit] 2 Peter 1:5-7*
- E. Results:** *keep you from being useless and unproductive in regard to the true knowledge and greater understanding of our Lord Jesus Christ. 2 Peter 1:8*
- F. Warning:** *For whoever lacks these qualities is blind-shortsighted [closing his spiritual eyes to the truth], having become oblivious to the fact that he was cleansed from his old sins. 2 Peter 1:9*
- G. Closing Reflections:** “true and personal knowledge of Him”
1. Intimacy with God: Occurs primarily via personal intimacy...we must contend for our time with God.
 2. A Byproduct: Knowledge of God is not primary change agent...intimate relationship with God is.
 3. Grounds Us: Helps to keep us grounded... humble...see reality as it is.
 4. Doesn't Just Happen: Cease to live as if spiritual virtues occur by default.

IV. PERSONAL APPLICATION

A. Personal Kairos

Therefore do not let what is a good thing for you [because of your freedom to choose]be spoken of as evil [by someone else]. Romans 14:16

1. Our Example: The Marti Ray Sham—a cover or the like for giving a thing a different outward appearance...from spiritual high to a blind, short-sighted low.

B. Revelations

1. A New Thing: I am doing a new thing in you, a new thing that connects you back to your beginning with Me. Everything concerning your soul will be new...A NEW MIND...A NEW WILL...NEW EMOTION...radical sold out love for Me will be your new comfort zone... Raymond's Journal Entry 5/14@12:09 pm
2. Come as a Child: “The thought that came to my mind before coming down for prayer: that we are to come to Him is like a child. No matter how long we have been with the Lord our coming to Him should always be as a child.” Martina's Observation
 - a. *But Jesus called them to Himself, saying [to the Apostles], “ Allow the children to come to Me, and do not forbid them, for the Kingdom of God belongs to such as these. 17. I assure you and most solemnly say to you, whoever does not receive the Kingdom of God [with faith and humility] like a child will not enter it at all.” Luke 18:16-17*
 - i. entry point: Kingdom entry point for all believers in Yeshua...faith and humility.
 - ii. maintenance point: Kingdom maintenance program for all believers in Yeshua...faith and humility.
 - b. *2He called a little child and set him before them, 3. And said “ I assure you and most solemnly say to you, unless you repent [that is, change your inner self-your old way of thinking, live changed lives] and become like children [trusting, humble, and forgiving] you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.4.Therefore, whoever[a]humbles himself like this child is greatest in the kingdom of heaven.5. Whoever receives and welcomes one[b]child like this in My name receives Me. Matthew 18:2-5*