

**June 22, 2014 Sermon Application Handout**

“What Do You Want From Me, God?”

Micah 6

**I. Introduction**

1. Before you begin, go to the Lord in prayer. Pray that God would open your eyes to His truth. Ask God to help you to see what you are living for.
2. Read Micah 6 and make some general observations. Who is mentioned in this chapter? Are there any commands required?

**II. Remember God’s G\_\_\_\_\_ (Micah 6:1-5)**

3. Read Micah 6:1. Imagine yourself in a courtroom for just a moment. According to verse one, who is the plaintiff? Who is the defendant? Who is God’s messenger and what is he to do on behalf of the Lord?
4. According to verse 2, what is Micah to tell the mountains? Why do you think mountains are included as witnesses? Key in on how these mountains are described. Then read Deuteronomy 31:28 to help develop your answer.
5. With court in session and the witnesses in place; what case has God to present in verses 3-4? What had the people (defendant) done?

6. What is the tone in verse 3? Is the Plaintiff (God) only concerned that a contract had been broken? What is the sense of the relationship between the Defendant (Israel) and the Plaintiff (God) at this point? What do the questions seem to imply?
  
7. During Micah's day it appears that God's people had grown weary of being in a relationship with the Lord. It also appears they had viewed the relationship as nothing more than keeping a bunch of rules such as not working on the Sabbath or the obligation to attend annual festivals. Christians today can be tempted in the same way. They too can see it as nothing more than a bunch of rules and regulations that have to be fulfilled. List out some of the rules and obligations that can tempt someone to become weary in their walk with the Lord? Why do you think it's so easy to get caught up in the trap of thinking our relationship with the Lord is so burdensome?
  
8. How does Micah 6:4-5 begin to help Israel (defendant) to understand their relationship with God (plaintiff) as much more than just keeping a bunch of rules? Where does God begin to direct their attention? What should these actions demonstrate to Israel? What do these actions demonstrate to you and how does it bring you hope and help against your own weariness?
  
9. List out the dangers in the Christian life when we forget about God's Grace and Kindness to us?

10. Take some time to “remember” and list out God’s Grace and Kindness towards you within the last week, month, and year. How might “remembering” and regularly reflecting on these things motivate you to view the Christian life as more than just duty or obligation? How might this nurture delight in your relationship with the Lord today? What can you do to regularly remember God’s grace in your life?

**III. Give God Your H\_\_\_\_\_ (Micah 6:6-8)**

11. Read Micah 6:6-8. What is Israel’s (defendant’s) response to the case against them in verse 6? What is the focus of their response? Can you list out any hyperbole being used?
  
12. Does it appear that Israel (defendant) is remorseful? Is there a genuine desire on their part to be reconciled unto God? Or are they now bargaining with Him to win His favor? What is the true attitude—one of humility or defensiveness? What would you say is the condition of their heart (cf. Is. 29:13)?
  
13. According to verse 8, what does Micah so clearly point out to the people that God desires from them? Was it 1000’s of rams, an ocean full of oil, or slaying their oldest child? Is that what He wants? Is that what would please the Lord?

14. Is this a new revelation? Did God suddenly spring this upon them? How does their own history remind them of what God has wanted from them all along (cf. 1 Samuel 15:22)?
  
15. What about today? Would you say believers are tempted to treat God as some cold deity that is kept at an arm's length? Are believers today tempted to go through life just performing the required rituals at church? Is this truly what God wants from the believer today?
  
16. What about you? Are you prone to view your relationship with God in this way? Are you hoping to earn God's favor by carrying out your own Christian duties such as Bible reading, prayer, church attendance, giving, service, communion, and obedience? Is this a biblical view-why or why not? (cf. Romans 6; Col. 3:1-4)? What does God want from you first (cf. Mk 7:6)?
  
17. If God gets your heart, He'll get your lips! In other words, all of the duties above are good things and God does desire them but don't be confused. These actions should be a manifestation of a heart that loves and worships God first; it's not about earning favor, it's about glorifying God in your life (1 Cor. 10:31). Consider these verses—Deuteronomy 6:4-9, 10:12, 11:1, Matthew 22:37-40; Mark 12:30; and Luke 10:27. What comes first before duty? How does this change your thinking?

18. According to Micah 6:8, if the hearts of the Israelites were truly oriented toward God, what heart attitude would demonstrate their repentance? (By the way, this has been a big focus in the book of Micah).
  
19. Had this particular heart attitude been practiced in Micah's day? Review Chapter 2 and 3, what had the people been doing instead? How did God feel about this (cf. Amos 5:21)? What do they need to do (cf. Is. 1:16)?
  
20. Do you think God expects this heart attitude to be reflected in His people today or was this only for Israel? How does Jesus address this in Matthew 23:23?
  
21. What does it mean to do justice? What does that look like specifically today? How are you actively practicing justice?
  
22. What is the second attribute that should be reflected in a heart oriented toward God? What are some practical ways we can demonstrate this toward others today? Pay attention to the fact that God wants you to love hese. Meaning we are to greatly delight in being this towards others).

23. When God calls us to do justice and to love kindness, He is calling us to transformed living because these attitudes and actions do not come naturally. As you reflect on your life, can you truly say you are delighting in doing good for others out of a love for Christ? Why or why not?
  
24. What else is included in transformed living according to the Lord from verse 8? What are some practical ways to live this out in your own life (also see Eph. 5:18)? Who gives you the ability and the empowerment to do for the glory of God (cf. Gal. 5:16)?
  
25. End your time in prayer. Ask God to show you how to do justice, how to love kindness and how to walk carefully before Him all your days to His glory.

“Only one life, ‘twill soon be past—Only what’s done for Christ will last!”  
(C.T. Studd)

## **Resources:**

### **Specific Resources for Micah:**

*Mastering the Old Testament* vol 21 by Walt Kaiser

*A Commentary on Micah* by Bruce Waltke (Technical)

*Tyndale Old Testament Commentary* vol 23a by Bruce Waltke (less technical)

*Micah* by Jack Riggs

**General Resources for the Minor Prophets:**

*The Minor Prophets* by James Montgomery Boice

*The Minor Prophets* by Charles Feinberg

*The Prophets of Israel* by Leon Wood

*Major Points from the Minor Prophets* by John Blanchard

*A Survey of Old Testament Introduction* by Gleason Archer

*Interpreting the Minor Prophets* by Robert Chisholm Jr

*The Ultimate Priority on Worship* by John MacArthur

*Knowing God* by J.I. Packer