

“What Does The Lord Require?”

Micah 6:6-8

Introduction

1. Micah the prophet rebuked Israel and Judah for their unfaithfulness to God.
 - a. Woe on Evildoers ([2:1-5](#)).
 - b. Rejecting prophets ([2:6-11](#)).
 - c. Wicked rulers and prophets ([3:1-12](#)).
2. He then gave them a glimpse of the future glory of God’s people which was to come through the Messiah as motivation to return to the Lord ([ch. 4-5](#)).
3. In ch. 6 God pleaded with the people to turn back to Him.
4. As we come to [6:6](#), the question is asked, what must be given for transgression?

Discussion

I. With What Shall I Come Before the Lord? (6:6-7)

- A. False Premise: multitude of sacrifices
 1. The assumption is made that God is pleased with a multitude of sacrifices.
 2. [Vs. 6](#): Burnt offerings or cows a year old?
 3. [Vs. 7](#): Thousands of rams? Ten thousand rivers of oil? My firstborn?
 4. The false premise here is that doing things for God is what takes away guilt; that somehow our sins will be forgiven if we pay Him enough.
 5. But in [vs. 8](#), God has already told the people what He desires, and it wasn’t more sacrifices.
- B. Obedience vs. Sacrifice ([1 Sam. 15:22](#)).
 1. The Lord does not care about how much we offer Him.
 - a. So often men are of the opinion that they can buy God off without changing their lives.
 - b. That they can cover their sins with a multitude of sacrifices and keep on sinning.
 - c. If they start to feel guilty or if their sins are brought to their attention, they get sad, pay some penance, and keep on sinning.
 - d. Do we really think that we benefit God by multiplying our sacrifices without turning our hearts to Him?
 - e. Do we really think that we are honoring God when we worship Him with our actions, but our hearts are far from Him? ([Matt. 15:8-9](#))
 2. Some say, “Tell me what to do, just don’t tell me I have to change.”
 3. But when Saul made this mistake, Samuel told him exactly what the Lord wanted.
 4. *“Behold, to obey is better than sacrifices, and to heed than the fat of rams.”*
 - a. We need to understand that sin is something that we cannot buy back; there is nothing that we can do or give to cover our sins.
 - b. The only thing we can do is to humble ourselves and place our lives under God’s grace and beg for forgiveness.
 - c. And then, rather than multiplying our sacrifices, start obeying God the way we were supposed to in the beginning.
 - d. I.e., show our repentance through humble submission to His will.
 5. That is, in essence, what Micah points out to the Jews in Micah 6:8.

II. What Does the Lord Require Of You?

- A. “Do Justly”
 1. Act according to the divine standard of righteousness.
 2. A term that is used several times throughout the O.T. is “honest scales” ([Lev. 19:35](#)).
 3. To do what is good and right always.
 - a. Not trying to get something for nothing.
 - b. Not trying to deceive others or scam them out of something.

4. When you owe something, pay it back whether someone else knows about it or not.
5. When someone drops a few dollars, give it back and don't keep it for yourself.
6. When you see someone being mistreated, show justice by lifting them up and comforting them (widows and orphans, Deut. 10:18).

B. Love Mercy

1. Justice deals fairly with all men.
2. Mercy helps those who cannot help themselves.
 - a. God is just because punishment for sin still remains.
 - b. But He is merciful because He provides a way of escape for those who seek it.
3. Mercy does not take into account a wrong committed.
4. Mercy is when someone owes us something and we overlook it when they cannot pay it back (Matt. 6:12; 18:22-35).
 - a. "...as we forgive our debtors."
 - b. "Should you not also have compassion on your fellow servant?"
5. As God is merciful, so we should be merciful, and so we will obtain mercy (Matt. 5:7).
6. Not just be merciful, but love it, seek it, desire it.

C. "Walk humbly with your God"

1. It is arrogant to think that we can pay back our own sins.
2. Humility teaches us that it is only by the grace of God that we can be forgiven.
3. Humility acknowledges the mercy of God and so submits to His will in all things.
4. Humility does not place limitations upon its service to God, but is willing to submit to any command (like Abraham who gave his son, and Jesus who gave His own life).
5. Moses expounds on this idea in Deut. 10:12-21:
 - a. Humility fears the Lord.
 - b. Humility allows us to serve God with our all.
 - c. Humility helps us to keep His commandments.
 - d. Humility acknowledges the greatness of God.
6. Vs. 18: God shows justice to the fatherless and the widow.
7. Vs. 19: God's people show mercy toward strangers.

III. Walk in God's ways.

- A. Observe that what the Lord requires is that we pursue the same characteristics that define Him.
 1. He is just
 2. He is merciful.
 3. He is humble—not taking into account wrong done. Jesus is the ultimate example.
- B. We cannot earn our salvation, but we can seek the Lord.
 1. Let us therefore repent of our sins.
 2. Let us pursue the things of God.
 3. Let us walk in all His ways. This has been His desire from the beginning.

Conclusion

1. We could continue to try to pay for our sins, but that is a burden no man can bear.
2. We may be able to convince ourselves that we have paid God enough, but we only deceive ourselves.
3. If we want salvation we must approach God in humility, seek out His mercy and start obeying Him.
4. That is a light burden to bear considering the alternative.
5. Jesus invites us to bear this light burden in Matt. 11:28-30. His invitation is open to all.

*By David Phillips
November 11th, 2007*

www.avondalechristians.com