

Micah 6:1–8

<sup>1</sup> Hear now what the LORD says: “Arise, plead your case before the mountains, And let the hills hear your voice.

<sup>2</sup> Hear, O you mountains, the LORD’s complaint, And you strong foundations of the earth; For the LORD has a complaint against His people, And He will contend with Israel.

<sup>3</sup> “O My people, what have I done to you? And how have I wearied you? Testify against Me.

<sup>4</sup> For I brought you up from the land of Egypt, I redeemed you from the house of bondage; And I sent before you Moses, Aaron, and Miriam.

<sup>5</sup> O My people, remember now What Balak king of Moab counseled, And what Balaam the son of Beor answered him, From Acacia Grove to Gilgal, That you may know the righteousness of the LORD.”

<sup>6</sup> With what shall I come before the LORD, And bow myself before the High God? Shall I come before Him with burnt offerings, With calves a year old?

<sup>7</sup> Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams, Ten thousand rivers of oil? Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression, The fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?

<sup>8</sup> He has shown you, O man, what is good; And what does the LORD require of you But to do justly, To love mercy, And to walk humbly with your God?

### *Responding to God’s Grace* *Micah 6:1-8*

INTRO:

The text found here is a very famous one. It is popular to preach on it. Yet it is difficult to continually live it out in our lives. Originally, this statement was for the Children of Judah who were hearing it from the prophet Micah. However, it contains great application for us today. This paragraph outlines God’s grace, His people’s erroneous response, and outlines the proper response to God’s goodness.

- I. The Goodness of God (v.3-5)*
- II. An Improper Response (v.6-7)*
- III. The Response God Wants (v. 8)*

## *I. The Goodness of God (v.3-5)*

**Micah 6:3–5** *“O My people, what have I done to you? And how have I wearied you? Testify against Me. For I brought you up from the land of Egypt, I redeemed you from the house of bondage; And I sent before you Moses, Aaron, and Miriam. O My people, remember now What Balak king of Moab counseled, And what Balaam the son of Beor answered him, From Acacia Grove to Gilgal, That you may know the righteousness of the LORD.”*

A. In these verses the LORD lays out His case against Judah. They were tired of serving God. They thought, like we do sometimes, that God hadn't done anything good for them. God takes them back to His greatest acts of love toward His people. First, God redeemed them from bondage to Egypt. This happened 700 years before Micah penned these words as God's spokesman. Why go back to an event so old? God cited the single greatest thing He did for Israel. They became His people and He their God.

B. He gave them great leaders to bring them to the Promised Land. Apart from John the Baptist these are probably the greatest people Israel ever produced. They led the people faithfully, but Israel rebelled.

C. The LORD protected them from those who would have destroyed them.

**v.5** *“O My people, remember now What Balak king of Moab counseled, And what Balaam the son of Beor answered him?”*

D. The LORD miraculously brought them into the land.

**(v.5)** *“From Acacia Grove to Gilgal.”*

This was the starting place of the crossing of the Jordan to the Jewish headquarters for the conquest of the land.

## *II. An Improper Response (v.6-7)*

**Micah 6:6–7** *“With what shall I come before the LORD, And bow myself before the High God? Shall I come before Him with burnt offerings, With calves a year old? Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams, Ten thousand rivers of oil? Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression, The fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?”*

A. Perhaps convicted because of God's goodness, the hearers ( people who know the LORD ) want to impress God with their spiritual commitment. The elements are of that age. He will bow in worship, offer many sacrifices, even sacrificing his first born for his sinfulness.

B. This response is one that we wrestle with today. Keeping in mind this is a person who already believes. What do we do when we sin? Do we remind ourselves of **1 John 1:9**?

***“If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”***

Do we confess our sins to God and then accept and believe His promised forgiveness, or do we seek to somehow “to make it up to God?”

### ***III. The Response God Wants (v. 8)***

**Micah 6:8** ***“He has shown you, O man, what is good; And what does the LORD require of you But to do justly, To love mercy, And to walk humbly with your God?”***

A. If God does not require all these excessive acts of commitment to the LORD, what does He require? This is not a statement of what we are to do to be saved. Rather the LORD told us how to walk in a covenant relationship with our God. This is not how to gain salvation, but how to live because we are saved!

B. So, How does God want us to live? First, He wants His people to do justice. We are to act honestly and openly with all those who are in our lives. The LORD told us repeatedly in His word how we must treat those who are without and who are within the fellowship of the church.

**Philippians 2:3–4** ***“Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself. Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others.”***

The motivation to live like this is directly because of our relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ.

C. We also must love with steadfast love. This means we should love what Christ loves, and we should love like Christ loves. Do you remember the steps of Christian growth in 2 Peter 1?

**2 Peter 1:6–7** ***“[Add] to godliness brotherly kindness, and to brotherly kindness love.”***

We must love others like Christ loves us.

D. Finally, we must (v.8) ***“walk humbly (carefully) with our God.”*** What does that mean? I think we see a little bit of what it means in a parallel passage in **Deuteronomy 10:12-13.**

***“And now, Israel, what does the Lord your God require of you, but to fear the LORD your God, to walk in all His ways and to love Him, to serve the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul, and to keep the commandments of the LORD and His statutes which I command you today for your good?”***

I chose this verse because the phraseology is identical. Walking humbly with God involves walking in an absolute commitment to loving Him. That is what makes us humble. There is a New Testament parallel to this in **1 John 1:7.**

***“But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.”***

There are two major applications for us.

1. We can add some New Testament events which show our Lord's grace to us. For example, the Lord dying for our sin on the cross, His rising from the Dead, and being seated on the right hand of the Father making intercession for us. The promise that one day He will return as they saw Him go. These like the Exodus happened many centuries ago, but we must not be wearied with them. We need to hold fast to them as our treasures.

2. We must grow in our walk with God so that He is pleased with us. We do not walk with God because we pay Him back or demonstrate our commitment. We walk with Him because we love the LORD our God with all of our hearts. Love is the only acceptable motivation.