

# WHAT DOES GOD REALLY WANT?

Sunday, January 17, 2021 — MICAH: Justice, Mercy and Hope series -- Msg 11 — Pastor Andrew Coleman

## REVIEW:

### THE PROPHECY OF MICAH -- 3 Prophecy Cycles of Judgment and Mercy

**The Setting:** The people of Israel are in rebellion and have sinned against God.

**1<sup>st</sup> Cycle : Destruction and Regathering** Micah chapters 1 & 2

**2<sup>nd</sup> Cycle: Doom and Deliverance** Micah chapters 3, 4 & 5

**3<sup>rd</sup> Cycle : Denunciations and Salvation** Micah chapters 6 & 7

-- God's indictments (6:1-5 and 6:9-16)

-- Israel's replies (6:6-8 and 7:1-10)

-- God's Exaltation and Salvation of His people (7:11-20)

**LAST WEEK:** The LORD declares His case against Israel for breaking their covenant with Him. We see God's heart as a frustrated parent of rebellious children. Despite God's repeated provision and rescue, they sin against Him continually. Their sins are many, but His mercy is more.

## CHAPTER 6:6-8 GIVING GOD WHAT HE REALLY WANTS...

MICAH 6:6-8

English Standard Version (ESV)

- 6 "With what shall I come before the LORD,  
and bow myself before God on high?  
Shall I come before him with burnt offerings,  
with calves a year old?  
7 Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams,  
with ten thousands of rivers of oil?  
Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression,  
the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?"  
8 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?

### Verses 6-7

Notice that this is Yahweh God; rightly exalted.  
Notice that there is a reckoning expected.  
Notice the progression of sacrifices from the possible to the absurd (vs 6-7).

### Verse 8

Notice the 4 questions and 1 reply.  
Notice this isn't new information.  
Notice the first adam fails, the second Adam prevails.  
'O man' = 'adam'  
Notice the expectation is humble obedience.

## RELATED PASSAGES:

### PSALM 51:16-17

- 16 For you will not delight in sacrifice, or I would give it;  
you will not be pleased with a burnt offering.  
17 The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit;  
a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.

### PSALM 40:6-8

- 6 In sacrifice and offering you have not delighted,  
but you have given me an open ear.  
Burnt offering and sin offering  
you have not required.  
7 Then I said, "Behold, I have come;  
in the scroll of the book it is written of me:  
8 I delight to do your will, O my God;  
your law is within my heart."

### AMOS 4:4-5

- 4 "Come to Bethel, and transgress;  
to Gilgal, and multiply transgression;  
bring your sacrifices every morning,  
your tithes every three days;  
5 offer a sacrifice of thanksgiving of that which is leavened,  
and proclaim freewill offerings, publish them;  
for so you love to do, O people of Israel!"  
declares the Lord GOD.

### HOSEA 6:6

For I desire steadfast love and not sacrifice,  
the knowledge of God rather than burnt offerings.

**8** *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?*

**1. There is NO SUBSTITUTE for humble, faith-filled obedience to God.**

- A) Israel offered sacrifices attempting to make up for...  
NOT doing justice (Micah 3:9 -- they detested it)  
NOT loving kindness (remember Micah chapters 2 & 3)  
NOT walking humbly with God (Micah 1:7&13 -- they had other gods and lots of pride)
- B) God cannot be bought off. Amos 5:21-24; Isaiah 1:11-16;
- C) God is disgusted and angered by our attempts to appease him with our sacrifices.  
 Amos 4:4-5; Isaiah 64:4

**2. There is NO HOPE of justice and mercy without walking humbly with God.**

- A) Walking with God enables us to do justice and love mercy (have compassion).
- B) Only when we love God can we love others. Matthew 22:37-40

**1 John 4:7-12**

*7 Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. 8 Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. 9 In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. 10 In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. 11 Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. 12 No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us.*

**3. There is NO WAY to walk with God in good works without trusting fully in Jesus Christ.**

- A) It all hinges on Jesus.  
**JOHN 14:6** *I am the way, the truth and the life, no one comes to the Father except through Me.*

**EPHESIANS 2:8-10**

*8 For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, 9 not a result of works, so that no one may boast. 10 For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.*

- B) Doing justice, loving mercy and walking humbly with God is the response of true faith in the Messiah, Jesus Christ.

**KEY QUESTIONS:**

- 1) *Do you need to stop and turn away from trying to appease God with your 'good works' and begin humbly walking with God through faith in Jesus Christ? You can right now.*
- 2) *For those who genuinely know Christ as Lord, have you been humbly walking close to God or has there been a distance between you and Him? If there's been distance, WHY is that? What are you going to do about it?*