

# What Does the Lord Require?

Use this guide as a tool to help you prepare to experience spiritual transformation in a practical way. It is a **flexible guide** that will help you discover, own, and apply the truths of God's Word.

## Message Summary

The New Day Church family is reading through the bible chronologically in 2017. Each week we hear a sermon based on the material we have already read for the week. We are learning that the story of Redemption is on full display from Genesis to Revelation. Both Old and New Testaments are one unified story that speaks of the beauty of God and the Redemption He has provided for us.

Micah prophesied in the latter part of the 8<sup>th</sup> century B.C. and his book is connected with Isaiah in many ways. Micah presents a covenant lawsuit against Israel and Judah. The book is structured in 3 cycles; 3 prophetic visions of both judgment and hope. The second verse in the book describes Yahweh as a witness against his people from His temple. Israel had transgressed the covenant with God, their primary sin being idolatry. However, this was only the beginning of their transgression.

Chapter 6 begins with an indictment against Israel. Yahweh asks, "How have I wearied you?" Not only had Israel committed spiritual adultery by worshiping idols but they had become an unjust, unloving, prideful people. Israel's response to God's indictment was in a sense, "We will bring you sacrifices in worship." In other words, Israel assumed that their relationship with God could be settled through the ceremony of worship.

God's response was simple. No ceremony is ever sufficient for worship. Offerings are no substitute for obedience to God's will nor is child sacrifice an acceptable solution because it was expressly prohibited in the Law (Leviticus 18:21, Deuteronomy 18:10). In other words, worship does not consist of ceremony alone but rather a changed life is true evidence of devotion to God.

But of what does a changed life consist? Micah's answer is simple. "Do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with your God" (v. 8). Israel had failed to do all 3. They had oppressed the poor (Micah 2), turned to violence (Micah 6:10-12), and pridefully committed idolatry (Micah 1:3-7). Therefore, judgment from God was coming against His people.

But just as judgment was sure to come, God also promised hope. God would bring His people out of exile. However, Israel would continue to disobey God. Even after God's grace in releasing them from exile twice they continued to fail. We are the same today. Just as God required justice, kindness, and humility from His people in Micah's day, He requires it today. So what hope is there for us? The answer is Jesus. Jesus fulfilled what Israel, and us, failed to do. And because of His sacrifice in our place and the grace He freely offers us, we have the power to obey God (2 Peter 1:3-11).

As you prepare to meet with your Missional Community this week examine your life. Are you trusting in Jesus who gave you the power to be just toward all people? Are you able to show kindness to all? Do you walk humbly by worshiping God in all of life? These are aspects of a changed life. This is what a life of worship is all about. It's what the Lord requires!

## Message Outline

What did the Lord require of Israel?

1. To act justly.
2. To love kindness.
3. To walk humbly.

How did Jesus fulfill what Israel failed to do?

1. His sacrifice was the just payment for our sin.
2. His offer of grace to all was merciful.
3. His condescension was a display of perfect humility.

In Christ we have the power to:

1. Be just in our dealings with all.
2. Show kindness to all.
3. Humbly worship God in all of life.

# What Does the Lord Require?

## Group Discussion

Use the following questions to help make application of God’s Word to your Head (What God wants me to know), to your Heart (What God wants me to desire/value), and to your Hands (What God wants me to do).

In regard to Micah 6:6-8:

1. What does this passage teach about God? (God’s Identity; Theology)
2. What does this passage teach about what God has done? (God’s Action; Christology)
3. What does this passage teach about man/me? (Old & New Creation Identity; Ecclesiology)
4. What does this passage teach about what I should do? (Reveals what I really believe about Questions 1-3; Missional Ecclesiology)
5. What does this passage teach about how I do it uniquely in my context? (personal action steps of obedience)

## Weekly Prayer Focus

### • Church:

- Pray as we seek to identify additional elders to lead us into the future.
- Pray about going on a global mission trip this year.
- Pray as we seek to raise up additional leaders who will multiply our Missional Communities.
- Pray for our worship space.
- Pray for our finances.
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### • Local:

- Pray that all who have believed the Gospel will obey Jesus in believer’s baptism.
- Pray for new relationships that will lead to Gospel conversations.
- Pray for the Missional Communities to impact their communities with the Gospel.
- Pray that God would burden us with the lostness in our cities, neighborhoods, and at work.
- Pray that God will identify 5 people you can begin to invest in and engage with the Gospel.
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### • Global:

- Pray that God would give you a heart for the nations.
- Pray for new workers on the mission field.
- Pray for the team working in SEA, the new believers, for those who have heard the Gospel, and the church planting movement among the unreached.
- Pray for Good Shepherd Ministries and Bill & Sandy Younger.
- Pray for Servants Hearts Ministries and Bob & Georgette Kornegay.
- Pray for Pastor Abraham and his church in Guatemala.
- Pray for the work of Paul & Sarah Young and Dakota Baptist Church in North Dakota.
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