

WHAT DOES GOD REQUIRE OF YOU?

Micah 6:1-8

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■ 1. INTRODUCTION:

- (i) All of us would like to know just what the Lord requires of us in order to get to heaven.
- (ii) However, answering that question is not as easy as giving a list of rules — “Thou shalt...and Thou shalt not.”
- (iii) The Old Testament prophet, Micah, gives us an inspired answer to this most important question.
- (iv) Let's examine this question together.



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- **2. HISTORICAL SITUATION IN THE TIME OF AMOS.** It was about 760-750 BC. Israel was enjoying great prosperity and had reached new political & military heights. It was also a time of idolatry, extravagant indulgence in luxurious living, immorality, corruption of judicial procedures and oppression of the poor. There was much social injustice. As a consequence, God would soon bring about the Assyrian captivity of the northern kingdom.



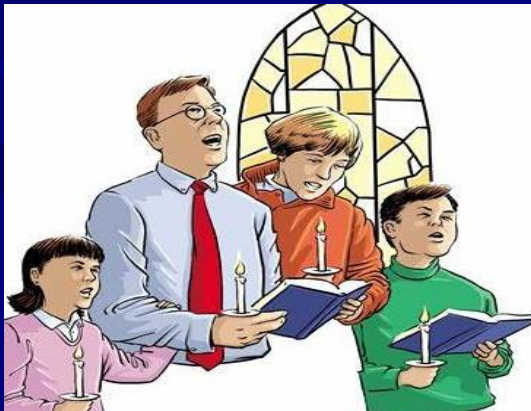
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- **3. THE PROPHET AMOS DESCRIBES THIS INDULGENCE:**
Amos 6:3-6 *You people are rushing toward the day of punishment. You bring near the rule of violence. ⁴ But now you lie on ivory beds and stretch out on your couches. You eat tender young lambs from the flock and young calves from the stable. ⁵ You play your harps, and like David, you practice on your musical instruments. ⁶ You drink wine in fancy cups. You use the best perfumes. And it doesn't even bother you that Joseph's family is being destroyed. (ERV)*



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- **4. GOD WANTS TO GIVE US REST**, a rest waiting for the people of God. **Hebrews 4:9-11** ⁹ *There remains, then, a Sabbath-rest for the people of God;* ¹⁰ *for anyone who enters God's rest also rests from their works, just as God did from his* **(i) BUT THERE IS A SINFUL KIND OF REST — CONNECTED TO INDIFFERENCE, LAZINESS, AND INDULGENCE ACCOMPANIED BY AN OUTWARD SHOW OF HOLINESS. (ii) IN HER PRIDE AND INDULGENCE, ALL ISRAEL SOUGHT IN THE TIME OF AMOS & EVEN TODAY, IS AN INDULGENT LUST FOR COMFORT AND LUXURY WHICH IS A SIN.** God promised to judge Israel for it.



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■ **5. GOD WANTS MORE THAN OUTWARD EXTERNAL WORSHIP & SHOW OF HOLINESS: *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? ⁷ 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? (NKJ)*



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- **6. BUT SOMETIMES WE TRY TO BARGAIN WITH GOD:** In **Micah 6:6-7**, we can almost hear Israel shouting at God from the witness stand. *“Shall I come before Him with burnt offerings, with calves a year old? thousands of rams? ten thousand rivers of oil? my firstborn child for my transgression.* **THE PEOPLE WERE REALLY BARGAINING WITH GOD.** They basically said, “God, we do this or that, will that make you happy?” **GOD DOES NOT WANT OUTWARD EXTERNAL HOLINESS.**



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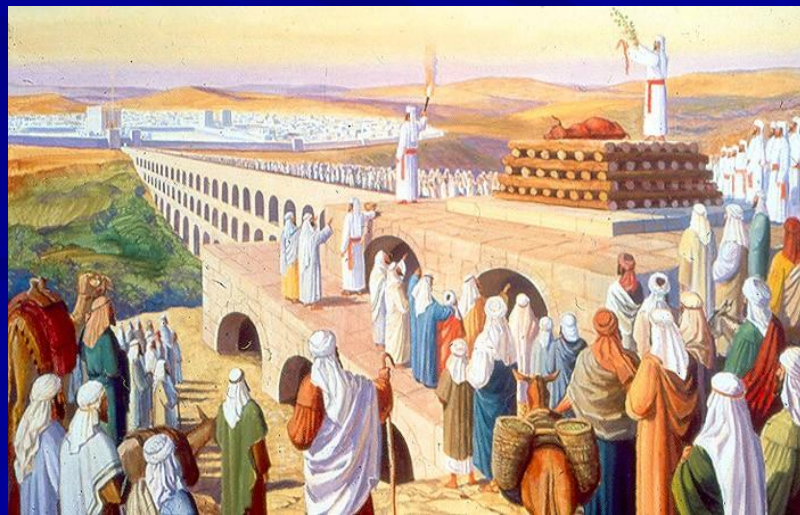
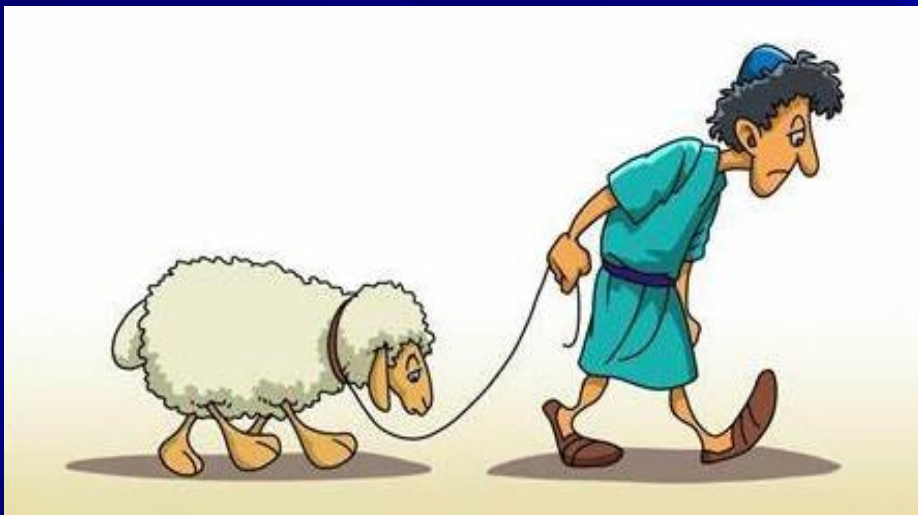
- **7. DOES GOD WANT SACRIFICES?** They would give him burnt offerings – these offerings were totally consumed and no part was eaten. They would give yearlings. Although calves could be sacrifices from the eighth day, yearlings were considered the best calves. The Israelites were willing to give God the best sacrifices they could.
- God had shown Israel what is good. God's law did not stand as something new – there wasn't any need to bargain with God



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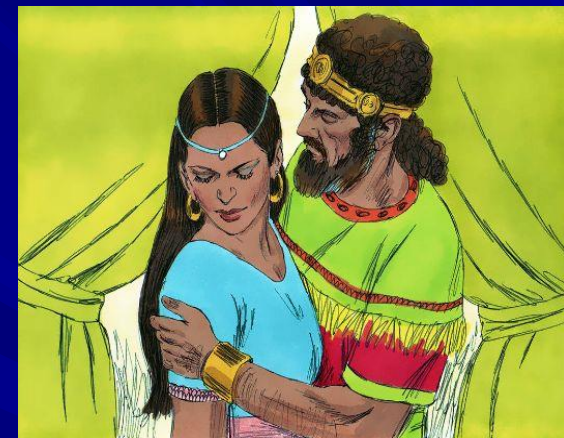
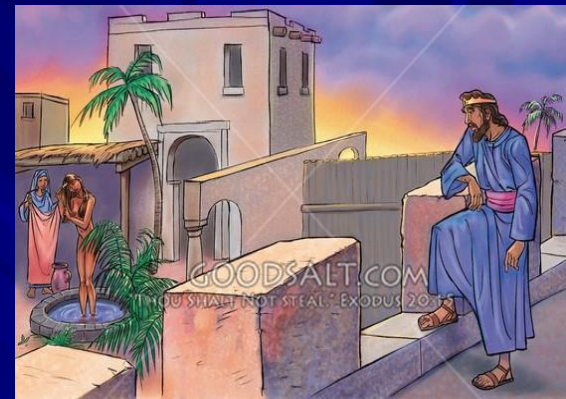
■ 8. BUT GOD HAS NO DESIRE FOR SACRIFICES: *Isaiah*

1:13-15 *Bring no more futile sacrifices; Incense is an abomination to Me. The New Moons, the Sabbaths, and the calling of assemblies—I cannot endure iniquity and the sacred meeting.¹⁴ Your New Moons and your appointed feasts My soul hates; They are a trouble to Me, I am weary of bearing them.¹⁵ When you spread out your hands, I will hide My eyes from you; Even though you make many prayers, I will not hear.*



9. WORSHIP WITHOUT OBEDIENCE OF GOD IS USELESS: KING DAVID

committed adultery with another man's wife. Bathsheba became pregnant and David was in trouble. To try and hide his sin, David arranged the murder of her husband Uriah. David had ample opportunity to repent and be restored but he continued in his rebellion. He allowed sin to become his life. He tried to hide the sin, but God sees the sin. As a result great trouble came into his life. David repented of all of his sins. And just as soon as he did, **GOD FORGAVE THOSE SINS. BUT THIS SINFULNESS HAD A LASTING CONSEQUENCE ON DAVID'S LIFE.** The son conceived in sin by David died. His sons rebelled against him & there were other permanent consequences.



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10. GOD DOES NOT WANT WORSHIP WITHOUT PURE LIVES.

In **Amos 5:21-24**, God says “I hate, I despise your *religious festivals*; your *assemblies* are a stench to me. ²² Even though you bring me *burnt offerings and grain offerings*, I will not accept them. Though you bring choice *fellowship offerings*, I will have no regard for them. ²³ Away with the noise of *your songs*! I will not listen to the music of your harps. ²⁴ But let *justice* roll on like a river, *righteousness* like a never-failing stream! **Matthew 5:8** Blessed are the pure in heart.



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- **11. WE CAN DO EXACTLY THE SAME THING AS THESE JEWS.** We can go through the motions on Sunday and live the way we want the rest of the week. We can give liberally of our means, yet not love our neighbour. We can take the Lord's Supper, but harbour bitterness against a neighbour.
- **ARE YOU GIVING GOD JUST THE EXTERNALS (OUTWARD SHOW)? OR, ARE YOU TRYING TO GIVE GOD THE BEST (TIME, TALENT & TREASURE)?**



WHAT DOES GOD REQUIRE OF YOU?

- **12. GOD REQUIRES US TO (i) DO JUSTLY** (is to act righteously toward ALL MEN — not just some. How do you treat enemies, the poor, and the sick) **(ii) TO LOVE MERCY** **(iii) TO WALK HUMBLY WITH YOUR GOD.**
- **Micah 6:8** *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? (NKJ)*



1. GOD WANTS US TO PRACTICE JUSTICE

- **(1) MICAH WAS LIVING AT A FRIGHTENING TIME.** Micah's land, Judah, was about to be conquered. From the outside the mighty, savage armies of Assyria were coming (Micah 1:2).
- Inside the land, Micah saw chaos. In the ancient world, land was a sacred inheritance, but the rich were taking away the land of the poor (Micah 2:1). The leaders were corrupt & unjust (Micah 3:9). Bribery was synonymous with politics (Micah 3:11). Micah despairs that the leaders "tear the skin off my people and break their bones in pieces and chop them up like meat in a kettle" (Micah 3:2-3).



1. GOD WANTS US TO PRACTICE JUSTICE

■ (2) WHAT DOES MICAH REMIND THE PEOPLE: *Micah 6:8*

*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? (NKJ)* “Justice”

- This means to see that the rights of others are protected. Isaiah equates justice with rebuking the oppressor, defending the fatherless, and pleading for the widow (Is. 1:17). Justice basically means that we help those who cannot help themselves.



2. GOD WANTS US TO LOVE MERCY

- (1) GOD REQUIRES US NOT JUST TO SHOW MERCY; BUT TO LOVE IT. *Micah 6:8* 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? (NKJ)
- “**MERCY**” literally means **loving kindness**. “Loving kindness” in this context refers to “**brotherly love.**” Micah is telling these Jews to love one another



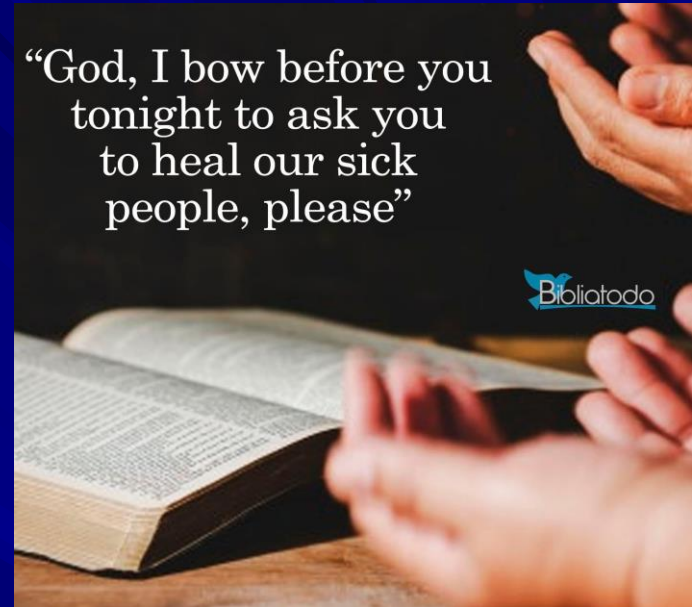
2. GOD WANTS US TO LOVE MERCY

- **(2) LOOK AT THE LIVES OF THE FIRST CENTURY CHRISTIANS: Justin Martyr** (early Christian born around 100 AD) wrote, “We used to value above all else money and possessions. Now we bring together all that we have and share it with those who are in need. Formerly we hated and killed one another because of a difference in nationality or custom. Now since the coming of Christ, we all live in peace. We pray for our enemies and seek to convert those who hate us.”



2. GOD WANTS US TO LOVE MERCY

- **(3) WHY IS BROTHERLY LOVE SO IMPORTANT?**
- **(i) John 13:34-35** *“A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. ³⁵ By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.”*
- The world will judge us and the church by how our brotherly love is manifested. If we backbite and devour one another, how will the world view us?
- **(a)** We can pray for our brethren facing difficulties, and we can listen when they need to talk. **(b)** We can visit the sick .



2. GOD WANTS US TO LOVE MERCY

■ WHY IS BROTHERLY LOVE SO IMPORTANT?

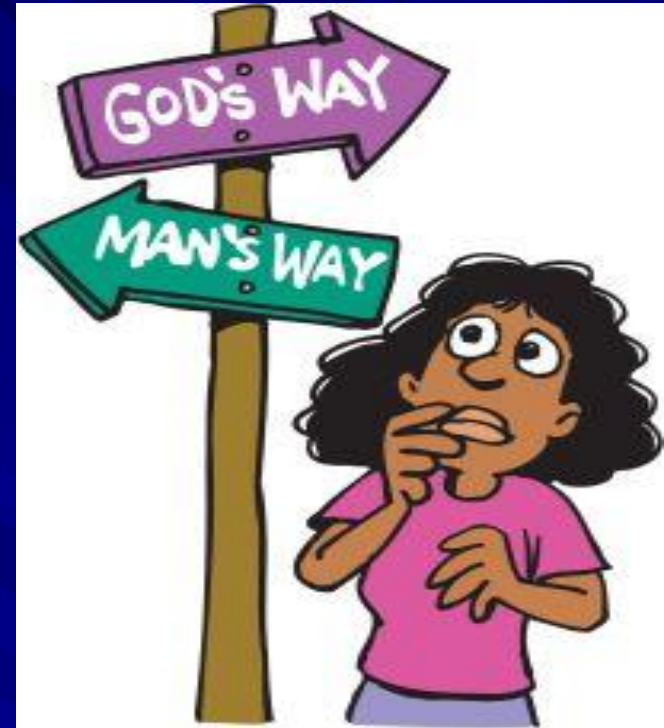
■ (ii) **1 John 3:15¹⁴ 15** *Anyone who hates a brother or sister is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life residing in him.*

■ “Every man who hates another has the venom of murder in his veins. He may never actually take the deadly weapons into his hand and destroy life; but if he wishes that his brother were out of the way, if he would be glad if no such person existed, that feeling amounts to murder in the judgment of God.” (Spurgeon)



3. GOD WANTS US TO WALK HUMBLY WITH HIM

- (1) **Micah 6:8** ⁸ *And to walk humbly with your God?* (NKJ)
- (i) “Humbly” here means “wisely” – we need to know how to walk with God.
- (ii) Walking with God means that we keep his instructions with our whole heart (2 Ki. 23:3).
- (iii) Walking with God means that God is first in my life, and I make every decision based on his Word.
- (iv) Humility must be in the heart, and then it will come out spontaneously as the outflow of life in every act that a man performs.” (Spurgeon)



3. GOD WANTS US TO WALK HUMBLY WITH HIM

■ **(2) James 4:10** ¹⁰ *Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up.* **(i)**

HUMILITY IS NOT DISLIKING WHO YOU ARE or demeaning yourself in front of

others. **(ii) HUMILITY IS A FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT (gentleness)** that should

be exhibited in every life that lives godly in Christ Jesus, **(iii) HUMILITY MEANS TO**

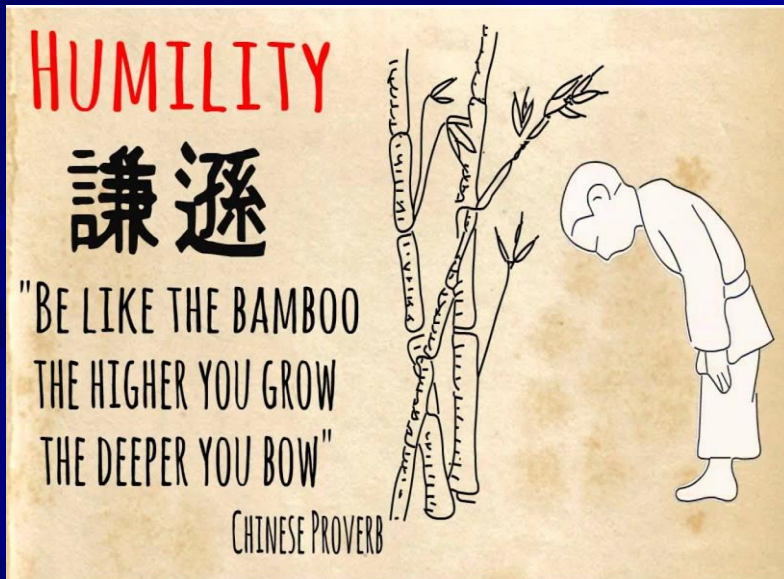
HUMBLE ONE'S SELF BEFORE THE

LORD. It is confessing that without the Lord we can do nothing. It is trusting Him in all things and relying on Him to carry out the good work that He has prepared for us to do in His power and for His ultimate glory.



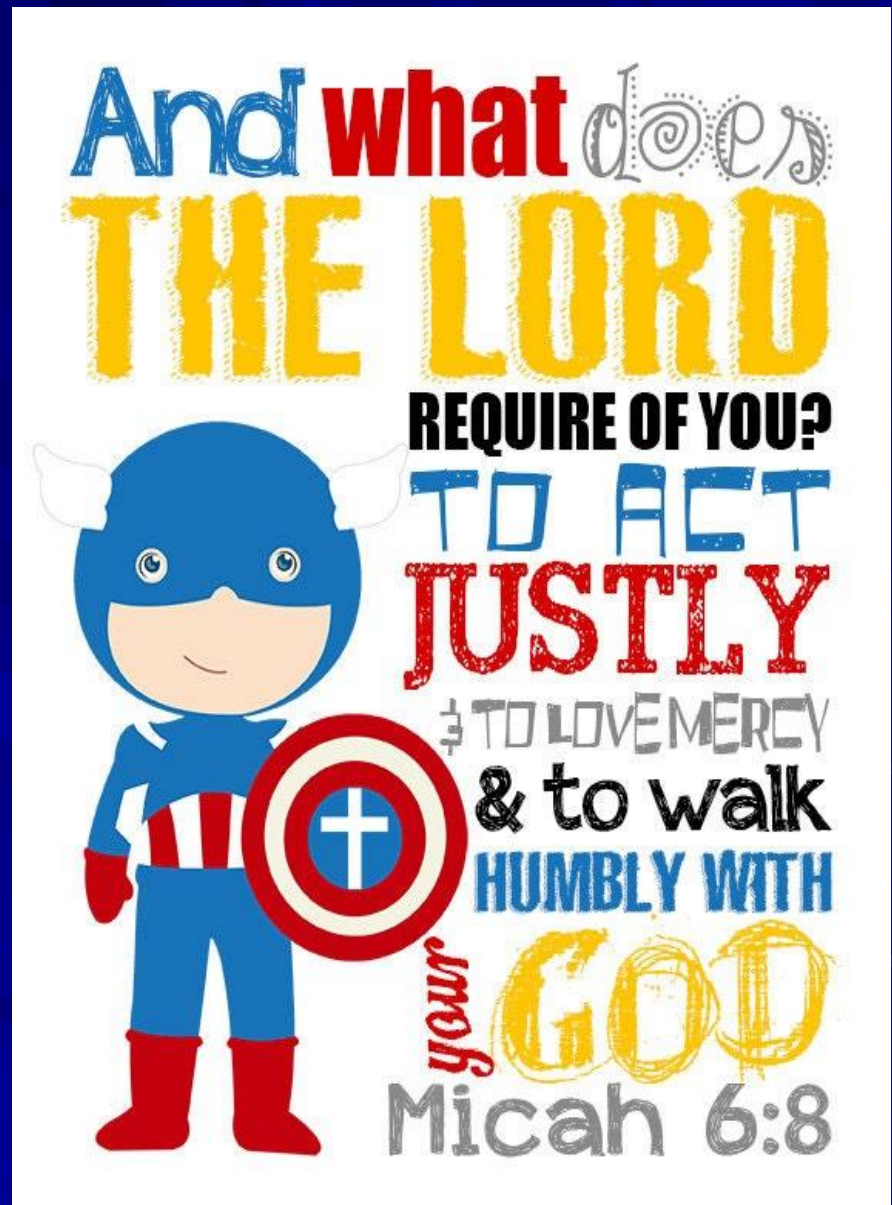
3. GOD WANTS US TO WALK HUMBLY WITH HIM

(3) Matthew 5:3 *"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven".* **WE NEED AN ATTITUDE OF HUMILITY.** Christ exemplified the grace and humility that he requires of each of us in order that we may be true Christians and not (self-centered) modern Pharisees. What do the poor in spirit recognize? **HUMILITY. THEIR REWARD: HUMBLE PEOPLE INHERIT THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN.**



3. GOD WANTS US TO WALK HUMBLY WITH HIM

- (4) SPURGEON'S SERMON *MICAH'S MESSAGE FOR TODAY* APPLIED THE IDEA OF **HOW TO WALK HUMBLY WITH YOUR GOD**:
- (i) Walk humbly when you are spiritually strong.
- (ii) Walk humbly when you have much work to do.
- (iii) Walk humbly in all your motives.



3. GOD WANTS US TO WALK HUMBLY WITH HIM

- SPURGEON'S SERMON *MICAH'S MESSAGE FOR TODAY* APPLIED THE IDEA OF HOW TO WALK HUMBLY WITH YOUR GOD:
- (iv) Walk humbly by studying God's word.
- (v) Walk humbly when under trials
- (vi) Walk humbly in your devotions
- (vii) Walk humbly between you and your brothers in Christ.
- (viii) Walk humbly when dealing with sinners.



CONCLUSION

- **Micah 6:8** 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? (NKJ)
- 1. AS YOU EXAMINE YOUR LIFE, ARE THE ABOVE QUALITIES THE THINGS **THAT JUMP OUT AT YOU**?
- 2. IF YOUR **NEIGHBOUR** SUMMED UP YOUR LIFE, WHAT WOULD HE SAY OF YOU?
- 3. IF **YOUR GOD** WERE TO SUM UP YOUR LIFE RIGHT NOW, WHAT WOULD HE SAY?



LET US PRAY

- Father God, how amazing it is that when I am lost, when I am unsure of the next step; when I cannot find my way, when voices are many and loud, you invite me to slow down, to seek the good, to center myself on your holy invitation:
- “Do justice,” you tell me, “Love kindness,” you advise, “Walk humbly with me,” you invite, “and I will show you the way.
- Father God, turn my heart toward justice.
Lord Jesus, show me how to love kindness.
Holy Spirit, guide me to walk with you in humility, now and forever, through Jesus name I pray. Amen.