**WHAT GOD REQUIRES OF EACH OF US**

Micah 6:6-8

Dr. Glenn A. Jent, Pastor

**INTRODUCTION**

In light of the previous passage, which we preached on last Sunday, we can see that remembering our journey, both spiritual and secular, should cause us to “know the righteous acts of the Lord.” Our journey has brought us to where we are and what we are because of the faithfulness of our mighty God. Thus, we should come to a full realization that we need to offer something to God to demonstrate our gratitude. Let us see what Micah suggests.

1. **WHAT *WE* OFFER TO GOD**
2. We offer **possessions**: burnt offerings of calves and rams; oil (tithes & talents).

*We are expected to offer up tithes and offerings of all that God has given to us. The problem is not in the giving itself, however. Why, then, do our sacrificial offerings not satisfy God? We shall answer that question later, but not yet!*

1. We offer **persons**: offer the firstborn child as a sacrifice (family & friends).

*Nothing is wrong with offering our families, our friends to God. God deserves these things from us. Why, then, are these sacrifices not acceptable unto God? Now, we can gain insight into the answer to the questions we have raised.*

1. We offer **pretense**, a mere **performance**: “bow down before the exalted Lord.”

*There is a lack of genuine praise and adoration. Rather than bowing before God and worshipping Him, we bow before Him hoping to convince Him of our piety, our love! Friends, we cannot deceive God. He sees into our hearts, not just our outward actions. What does God require of us for our offerings to be acceptable?*

1. **WHAT *GOD* REQUIRES THAT WE OFFER**
2. God requires a **righteous** **life**: “to act justly.”

*God is looking for our actions to be based upon a righteousness life. Nothing else will do. Only a righteous life from a born-again person will make our offerings of possessions, of family, of friends acceptable unto God.*

1. God requires a **renewed** **spirit**: “to love mercy.”

*God is looking for a changed spirit, a spirit that has been transformed by the presence of the Holy Spirit living within us. Thus, the spirit of our giving is radically changed—no more giving out of a sense of duty, but out of love for God.*

1. God requires a **repentant** **attitude**: “to walk humbly with your God.”

*A repentant attitude reflects our recognition that we have no basis for pride since our salvation is a free gift—one that could never be earned. Thus, we realize that we need to be humble at all times in our walking before God and in our dealings with others.*

**CONCLUSION**

God is looking for us to live a changed life because of His presence in our lives. He is looking for us to reflect His righteous acts in delivering us from bondage to our past. He is looking for us to live in such a way that we give people hope in the midst of their dark journeys. He wants us to show them the way of deliverance so that they can be saved and have a journey worth remembering, just as we do. Therefore, I urge all of us today “to live justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God.”

*“Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me (2X)*

*Cast me not away from Your presence, O Lord, and take not Your Holy Spirit from me.*

*Restore unto me the joy of Your salvation, and renew a right spirit within me.”*