

Words to Live By: Do Justice

Micah 6:8

Message Outline

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? Micah 6:8

- I. The Context

- II. The Command

- III. The Capability

Who around me is vulnerable and needs help?

Looking Back

Have you ever wanted God to tell you what to do? How many times do we pray, "God just tell me what you want me to do, and I'll do it!" In Micah 6:8, God tells Israel exactly what he wants them to do – to do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with Him. As we read those words today, they still reflect to you and me the heart of God that desires for His people to do justice. What does "doing justice" look like? And once we know that, how in the world are we to go about it?

Thinking It Through

disagree|agree, consider|contemplate

"When God balances the scales morally, it is not some standard outside Himself He looks at and then determines whether this is right or wrong. But rather it's His very nature, it is His very character and nature that is the standard by which He judges." Josh McDowell

"The moral arc of the universe bends at the elbow of justice." Martin Luther King Jr.

"6 Is not this the kind of fasting I have chosen: to loose the chains of injustice and untie the cords of the yoke, to set the oppressed free and break every yoke? 7 Is it not to share your food with the hungry and to provide the poor wanderer with shelter – when you see the naked, to clothe them, and not to turn away from your own flesh and blood?" Isaiah 58:6-7

"It's a matter of taking the side of the weak against the strong, something the best people have always done." Harriet Beecher Stowe

Working it Out

1. What do you think of when you think about justice?
2. Matt discussed two aspects of justice, retributive and restorative. Are these categories new for you?

How are retributive and restorative justice different? How are they similar?

3. Matt talked about multiple examples in the Old Testament law and prophets where God commands His people to pay attention to those who are vulnerable. Which four groups of people make up "the quartet of the vulnerable?" (a term by Nicholas Wolterstorff)

What does this emphasis tell us about God?

4. Matt talked about "loving kindness (or mercy)" as a heart attitude that comes right alongside justice, not in opposition to it. What do you think it means to "love kindness"?
 5. How might walking humbly with God and doing justice complement each other? Taken together, what does someone look like who is practicing both of these actions?
 6. Who around you right now is vulnerable?
 7. Based on your question to #6, what do you think it looks like for you to wisely and compassionately "do justice?" (there is no ONE right answer!)
 8. What would it look like if our church community was characterized by justice, kindness, and humility?
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