

Micah 6:8 #2

Goodness:

a relationship of kindness with Integrity

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This series is about one verse in Micah, 6:8...last week, we had an overview. Basically, Micah was a prophet speaking to Judah, including Israel.



First, let's talk about a video game called ***For the King***. I actually only play one video game which is containable. The story is the king has died and you have to figure out the source of chaos and defeat it.



There is a chaos meter at the top of the screen. When it is full, it is very hectic, filled with monsters and danger.

MICAH 2:8-9

Lately my people have risen up like an enemy. You strip off the rich robe from those who pass by without a care, like men returning from battle. 9 You drive the women of my people from their pleasant homes. You take away my blessing from their children forever.

As I read Micah, I notice chaos happening for the people's disobedience. Notice the first word "LATELY." When I read this and think about today's news, it sounds like us. Chaos has been creeping in for a long time! It's like a steep mountain of chaos ice with me holding my pickaxe (that I don't know how to use), hoping not to fly off the mountain. It's not just the soldiers, it's ME who creates chaos with my mouth, even as I interrupt my wife as she tells me her great

plans. All of us live in a world of absolute chaos, like being on ice with an ice pick I don't know what to do with.

MICAH 6:8

He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.

Last week, Daniel told us that he has heard this verse repeated over and over in the words of a song his young daughter listens to. It is a verse taken out of context. My job today is not to tell you all about justice and mercy: my job is to talk about the letters in red.

This is a court case: Verse 3 says this:

Have I become wearisome to you? This is not a set of rules that he expects everyone to believe. Instead, he says MY PEOPLE. I say MY wife, my mother...he refers to these people as MY people. He wants to know if he has burdened them and if he is that harsh. He loves them and wants them to know what he has done. He is about relationships. This is a relational question.

MICAH 6:3

"My people, what have I done to you?
How have I burdened you? Answer me.

Relationship

I don't think he is a burden to them: here are his reasons:

MICAH 6:4-7

Four Evidences:

1. Rescued out of Slavery
2. Gave you people to lead you
3. Protected you
4. Brought you into the promise land

Response:

What will it take to satisfy you
so we can continue without
facing consequences?

Notice their exaggerated response to them. In a sense, they are saying He asks way too much and they want him to get off their backs. This is the context.

MICAH 6:8 - HE HAS SHOWN YOU

God has not been secretive:

Deut 30:11 Now what I am commanding you today is not too difficult for you or beyond your reach.

Deut 30:15 See, I set before you today life and prosperity, death and destruction.

Amos 3:7 Surely the Sovereign Lord does nothing without revealing his plan to his servants the prophets.

God's response is that He **has** shown you. He has not been secretive. They will probably think of Deut 30:11 and 15 when he says this. He explains everything to them. He is saying that God has not kept how to be in a relationship with him as a secret: no secret handshake, etc. It's been laid out and is obvious. Amos echoes this in Amos 3:7.

Some translations say *O Man* or *O humans*. But he means **EVERYONE**. It's personal: it's to individuals and it's not a secret. It's simple.

MICAH 6:8 WHAT IS GOOD

James 1:17 Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows.

MICAH 6:8 - O MORTAL

Personal and Relational

What is good?

Maybe we need to

study this for an entire year! This question reminds me of James 1:17. The key is that there is integrity in God: Goodness and God are linked. They don't shift: They are consistent.

MICAH 6:8 WHAT IS GOOD

God's Creation: Genesis 1:4, 10, 12, 18, 21, 23, 31
Genesis 2:18 "Not Good" - For man to be alone
Genesis 2:16-17 "The tree of the knowledge of Good and Evil. (Dependent Relationship)"

If you go back to the beginning of the Bible, Gen 2, he says something is NOT good: *For man to be alone*. Image bearers cannot be alone. This is not good: the trinity is not alone. When he puts a man in the garden, he also tells him about a tree. Understand that the tree is there because we have the ability to dictate what is good. What is NOT good is to eat from this tree: Who will tell them what is good and evil?

MICAH 6:8 WHAT IS GOOD

Genesis 3:4 "You will not certainly die," the serpent said to the woman. 5 "For God knows that when you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."

They eat from the tree and have a conversation about the tree. They know what will happen if they eat. Now, thousands of years later, we are all demigods who get to decide what is good and right, creating a level of terror and chaos. That's why I feel like I'm standing on an icy mountain with a pickaxe that I cannot use! We hear "Speak your truth!" and yet there is only ONE truth. I will let God determine this or I will live in chaos.

From the moment Adam and Eve are driven out, God continually whispers this:

MICAH 6:8 WHAT IS GOOD

Psalms 34:8 Taste and see that the Lord is good; blessed is the one who takes refuge in him.

Refuge is allowing God to say what is good and right! It's not protection from fires, or spouses, or rebellious children. It's the refuge that God offers us in the midst of chaos. Yet, I find this is so hard to do, if impossible.

MICAH 6:8 WHAT IS GOOD

Relational Kindness with integrity.

Matthew 7:11 If you, then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good gifts to those who ask him!

I love Matt 7:11. I struggle with not really believing God is good because I'm on a cliff. How much better is it to experience a father who is good because he will offer a gift that is truly good: A God with integrity will offer true goodness.

and its' accessible.

Goodness: a relationship of kindness with integrity. It's not secret

MICAH 6:8 WHAT THE LORD REQUIRES OF YOU

Practice

On top of this, it requires something of us. On Friday, I have to get a colonoscopy. I realize these people are practiced at this. But they are still practicing on me. There is not a guarantee that they will do it right. In Micah, there aren't any rules on the wall: he is inviting you to practice what he has shown you by

ACTING (relational kindness with integrity)

LOVING (relational kindness with integrity)

WALKING (relational kindness with integrity)

The beauty of this is PRACTICING: it's simple and it's practice. Micah is telling them to look and do goodness and practice.

CEPIN CLIMBING
TECHNOLOGY
ALPINTOUR



The name "Cepin" really means ICE AXE, a precision tool to cut footsteps in ice.

I think Micah 6:8 is the ice axe in chaos. My temptation is to dig into the ideas of justice and mercy but the problem is that tomorrow I will wake up tired and grumpy and I will not act justly or mercifully. I will revert to my Isrealite to-do list where I get God off my back so I can get onto what I really want to do. But I think that without Jesus, Micah 6:8 is dumb: I cannot do this!

Jesus has fasted 40 days and picks up the scroll in the synagogue and reads:

Luke 4: "The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free, 19 to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor." 20 Then he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant and sat down. The eyes of everyone in the synagogue were fastened on him. 21 He began by saying to them, "Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing."

This was fulfilled right now! There is good news because the favor of God is on us and God's love is poured out on us.

When I stand in chaos and confusion, his arm is on my arm and he is chiseling away the spots for me. When I speak, I'm not alone: you all are with me.

Yet, I live in a negative narrative: my story of hurt and chaos. I emphasize this and lose sight of my own salvation and drift away.

Hebrews 2:1 We must pay the most **careful attention**, therefore, to what we have heard, so that we do not **drift away**.

1 John 1:1 That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked at and our hands have touched—this we proclaim concerning the Word of life.

What Narrative will you live in?

When I pay attention to what God has done, I change the narrative and tell the story of what he is doing and has done.

Our conversation has to change: we have to become proclaimers of what is good. We don't learn Micah 6:8 unless we talk about the good acts of God.

Micah 7:8 Because I have sinned against him, I will bear the Lord's wrath, until he pleads my case and upholds my cause. He will bring me out into the light; I will see his righteousness.

What narrative do you live in? He will bring him into the light! There is a change of narrative that happens in Micah, A retelling of this. I would encourage you to know that the relationship of the kindness of God is right in front of you and his requirements are lovely and good to talk about.