

Micah 6:8 #4

Walk Humbly

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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.

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Today we will finish our series on Micah 6:8. A quick review: First, we talked about the context Micah chapter 6 as well as the whole book of Micah historically. Micah was a small-town prophet to kings who went way beyond his humble beginnings.

What is Good?

Relational kindness with integrity

Require?

To practice justice, mercy, and humility

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In the next sermon Eric discussed what is good and what “require” means.

Act Justly

- Balanced scales
- Aligned with God's standard
- God's justice is closely tied to his mercy

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The 3rd and 4th sermons covered Justice/Mercy in two parts (Mark). Because we cannot balance scales consistently, we need mercy.

Love Mercy

Love

- Hold close/center your life around

Mercy

- Hesed, loving kindness and mercy

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Mercy is HESED, God's lovingkindness which is integral to God's character and necessarily linked to Justice.

Humbly walk with your God

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I rearranged this last sentence to start with “humbly.”

But first, a story from my life. My sophomore year in college included trips to the gym. The first time I went, the trainer asked me for my reasons to come to the gym: my reason was “to look good.” I didn’t last long in the gym; waking up at 5:30 a.m. was difficult. I also kind of gave up on taking care of myself and looking good. My wife Catherine said I was less accessible when I looked unkempt. Even though I wanted to argue with

her (why should others be affected by how I look?), I heeded her advice.

What does this have to do with this verse? Researching this word, I found that humility means having a “right-sized status” or perspective of ourselves.

Humbly צָנַע

Lowly

Modest

Submission

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The Hebrew word means lowly, modest, and submission.

Humbly יְהִי צַדִּיק

In a deliberate posture of reverence towards and submission to God

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I did more digging and found another Hebrew word: in this definition, I noticed the word *deliberate*. When I experience reverence, I’m usually not looking for it: I notice the stars at night or I stand on a mountain and notice beauty. But I realized this is also something I can choose.

Arrogance

“I’ve weighed you God and found you lacking, so I’ve decided my opinion is superior to yours”

-Emily McConnell
(Mom)

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I started to ask my friends and family what they thought of humility. My mom actually defined it by its opposite: arrogance.

I think this definition is challenging, both for others to hear and for ME to hear.

I studied more about arrogance and changed the it to this:

Arrogance

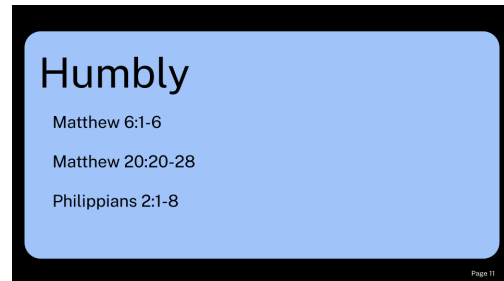
In a deliberate posture of reverence towards and submission to Self

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definition

Let's look at some biblical examples of this:

Matt 6:1 “Be careful not to practice your righteousness in front of others to be seen by them. If you do, you will have no reward from your Father in heaven.



2 “So when you give to the needy, do not announce it with trumpets, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and on the streets, to be honored by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full. **3** But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, **4** so that your giving may be in secret. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.

5 “And when you pray, do not be like the hypocrites, for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the street corners to be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full. **6** But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.

Practicing righteousness is not the problem: it's doing it in front of others to be honored by them that is the problem. The same is true with prayer.

Matt 20:20-28 Then the mother of Zebedee's sons came to Jesus with her sons and, kneeling down, asked a favor of him. **21** “What is it you want?” he asked. She said, “Grant that one of these two sons of mine may sit at your right and the other at your left in your kingdom.”

22 “You don't know what you are asking,” Jesus said to them. “Can you drink the cup I am going to drink?” “We can,” they answered.

23 Jesus said to them, “You will indeed drink from my cup, but to sit at my right or left is not for me to grant. These places belong to those for whom they have been prepared by my Father.” **24** When the ten heard about this, they were indignant with the two brothers. **25** Jesus called them together and said, “You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them. **26** Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, **27** and whoever wants to be first must be your slave— **28** just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”

This mother wants to advocate for her sons and it seems they are in on the plan.

Phil 2:1-8 Therefore if you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any common sharing in the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, **2** then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and of one mind. **3** Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, **4** not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others.

5 In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus: **6**

Who, being in very nature^[a] God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; **7** rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature^[b] of a servant, being made in human likeness. **8** And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death—even death on a cross!

I think we get submission from this deliberate posture towards the father, becoming obedient to death. But why would we want to do this? If you look at vs 2, valuing others above yourself stand out as a possible reason.

These are all examples of humility as a lowly position, inflating their ego and deflating it.

We need to look still further at the book of Job:

Job 40:1-12 The LORD said to Job:

2 “Will the one who contends with the Almighty correct him? Let him who accuses God answer him!”

3 Then Job answered the LORD: **4** “I am unworthy—how can I reply to you? I put my hand over my mouth. **5** I spoke once, but I have no answer— twice, but I will say no more.”

6 Then the LORD spoke to Job out of the storm: **7** “Brace yourself like a man; I will question you, and you shall answer me. **8** “Would you discredit my justice? Would you condemn me to justify yourself? **9** Do you have an arm like God’s, and can your voice thunder like his? **10** Then adorn yourself with glory and splendor, and clothe yourself in honor and majesty. **11** Unleash the fury of your wrath, look at all who are proud and bring them low, **12** look at all who are proud and humble them, crush the wicked where they stand.

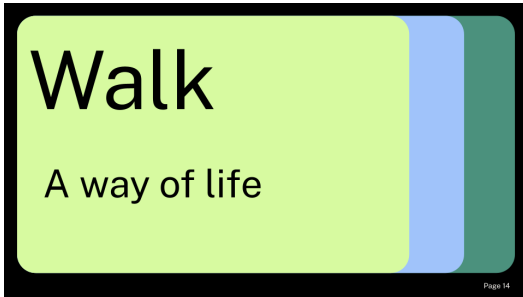
Humbly

Right sized Status

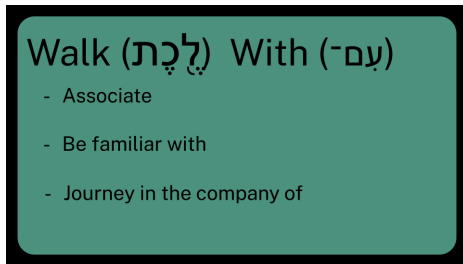
I am insignificant: this is the phrase that brings me to define humility as right-sized status. Job says he is insignificant and doesn’t matter to God...yet God encourages him to think of himself otherwise. God is asking him to be in a relationship with him: we are not to

give up and back away and say that God doesn't care...because He does!

The next part of this verse is about walking.

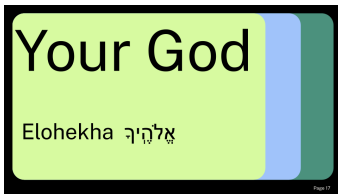


Walking is an action word:



Of course, these are literal definitions but you have to look at the two Hebrew words together to find the complete definition.

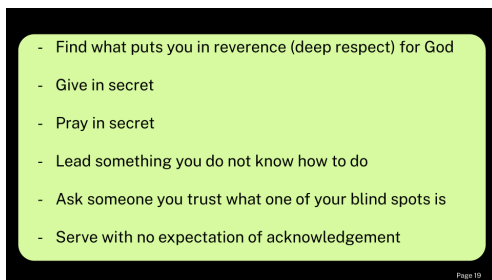
In Micah 6:8, we are called to be familiar with God as we journey in his company. We are in his company, we walk with him.



This means YOUR God...every one of us, individually. We have individual personal relationships with God. But it's not just me on an island; we are in a community of his people. It's used 325 times, most of them in Deuterotomy which talks about them as a community, a nation, to use as a church.



Have I made you excited about walking with your God? This leads to HOW we might do this.



These are some suggestions:

1. Making myself feel small in a good way, maybe going on a cool walk. Find what does this for YOU. Practice it: intentionally put yourself in places of reverence.
2. Giving and Praying in secret is for an audience of one: No one needs to ever know about this! Don't be hindered in serving if this doesn't happen, for example playing music. Still do it but don't seek the places where you would be seen.
3. Leading in something you don't know about finding humility. There are lots of mistakes and realizing imperfections.
4. Asking something you trust for a blind spot. The key is someone who knows you well and will build you up despite your weaknesses. This won't be easy because it's easy to get defensive.
5. Serve with no expectation of acknowledgement. Parenting does this for me! When you serve someone who cannot or will not notice you, it builds humility. Find ways to serve and don't seek acknowledgement.

Walking humbly and praying: talk to God about each of these things. Then talk to your community about these experiences.