

Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany – 2023  
Saturday, 1/28 at 4:00 | Sunday, 1/29 at 9:00

# 3 Ways to Live as Christians

- ➔ Do Justice
- ➔ Love Kindness
- ➔ Walk Humbly with Your God

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Text: Micah 6:1-8 NAS 1995

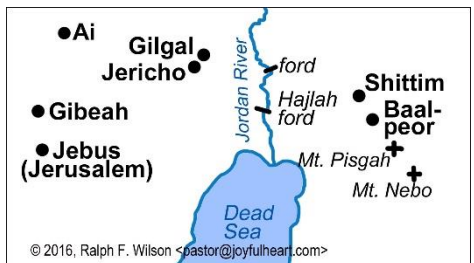
**Introduction:** Dear friends in Christ: Today, in **Micah chapter 6**, the LORD is calling Israel to ➔repent, ➔return to their trust in Him, and ➔honor Him in their lives. *Let us do the same!*

## 1. **The LORD Lays Out His Case Against His People:**

- a. Think of a courtroom setting: In **Micah 6:1-2**, try to identify **the jury**: <sup>1</sup> Hear now what the LORD is saying, “Arise, plead your case before the **mountains**, And let the **hills** hear your voice. <sup>2</sup> Listen, you mountains, to the indictment of the LORD, And you enduring **foundations of the earth**, Because the LORD has a case against His people; Even with Israel He will dispute.” // Since we live within God’s creation, we cannot hide our sins, so, let us repent.

- b. Note the amazing blessings: The LORD is speaking to the people of Israel through Micah:
- <sup>3</sup> “My people, what have I done to you, And how have I wearied you? Answer Me.
- i. <sup>4</sup> Indeed, I brought you up from the land of Egypt And ransomed you from the house of slavery, And I sent before you Moses, Aaron, and Miriam. // After hundreds of years of being enslaved in Egypt, *the LORD set them free!*
- ii. <sup>5</sup> My people, remember now What Balak king of Moab counseled And what Balaam son of Beor answered him, // **Balak hired Balaam to curse Israel, but the Lord forced [Balaam] to bless Israel instead (Nu 22–24).**<sup>1</sup>

iii. *And from Shittim to Gilgal, So that you might know the*



*righteous acts of the LORD.” // With the LORD’s blessing, Joshua led Israel ♦from Shittim – just outside the Promised Land (3:1), ♦across the dry Jordan Riverbed (3:13) ♦to Gilgal – just inside the Promised Land (4:19). Even though the LORD was so good to Israel, *the people did not live in repentance.**

<sup>1</sup> Engelbrecht, E. A. (2009). [The Lutheran Study Bible](#) (p. 1495). Concordia Publishing House.

2. **Someone Asks What the LORD Requires:** <sup>6</sup> With what shall I come to the LORD *And* bow myself before the God on high?
- a. Shall I come to Him with burnt offerings, With yearling calves? // The LORD gave that command (Lev. 9:3), *but He wanted their hearts.*
  - b. <sup>7</sup> Does the LORD take delight in thousands of rams, In ten thousand rivers of oil? // Solomon offered a great number of sacrifices (1 Kings 8:63), *but the LORD wanted their hearts.*
  - c. Shall I present my firstborn *for* my rebellious acts, The fruit of my body for the sin of my soul? // The LORD never commanded human sacrifice; instead, *He wanted repentant hearts.*
3. **Micah Summarizes the LORD's Requirements:** <sup>8</sup> He has told you, O man, what is good; And what does the LORD require of you But to do justice, to love kindness, And to walk humbly with your God? // What can be said about the LORD's requirements?
- a. They were NEVER given for the purpose of earning His favor or covering our sins (Rom. 3:20).
  - b. The LORD sent His Son to live in our place, as our substitute, *to fully meet His requirements*. Then, *while nailed to His cross and in excruciating pain*, Jesus bore our sins and our eternal punishment.
  - c. Repentant hearts are essential: Repentant hearts keep...
    - i. Believing the Bible is true.
    - ii. Admitting their sins.

- iii. Being sorry for their sins.
  - iv. Turning from their sins.
  - v. Trusting in Jesus for eternal life.
  - vi. Being thankful for forgiveness and peace.
  - vii. Knowing and following God's will.
- d. Simple ways to honor the LORD:
- i. **Do justice** – by doing what is right, fair, and honest, *all that agrees with the Bible*.
  - ii. **Love kindness** – *by giving mercy, rather than revenge, to those who sin against us*.
  - iii. **Walk humbly with our God** – *by trusting in Him for everything. The arrogant trust in themselves, but Christians trust in the LORD – even when it doesn't make sense* ([Proverbs 3:5-6](#)).

**Let Us Pray:** Dear LORD, long ago You were so good to Israel; now, in our lives, You have been so good to us – TYSM!

As Israel wavered and fell, so we are tempted to do the same. Please keep working repentance in our hearts, then move us gladly, *by the H.S.*, to **do justice**, **love kindness**, and **walk humbly with You**, *our great God and Savior!*

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