

Act, Love, Walk

Micah 6:6-8

Duty or Relationship?

- **The question? How to approach Elohim. This is not a new question for Micah to ask. Read Deuteronomy 10:12-13 for approximately the same question about a thousand years earlier. Maybe this has been a question we ask ourselves even today? How do I approach a holy perfect God? Of course most Christians would say it is only through Jesus that we approach the Father and we cannot bring anything of our own that will impress an All-Powerful God. Some Christians would say we claim grace, but is backed up with our works. But which works? Only Jesus knows which works glorify Him and which ones glorify ourselves.**

History

- **Notice the prophet knows well the story of Balak and Balaam. Balaam did righteous works because he didn't curse Israel, but blessed them. He obediently spoke for YHWH even though a Gentile king was willing to pay him generously to curse Israel.**
- **Joshua 13:22 records how Balaam died. Recompense for his later sharing how to entrap Israel in sin.**
- **This story reveals a prophet that offered blessings and was rewarded with life, but when he later offers up a curse, he is rewarded with death.**

The Offerings

- **The offerings mentioned in verses 6-7 are reminders that Micah was taught by the Torah on the proper sacrifices; burnt offerings, yearling calves, rams, and oil.**
- **But notice that he mentions the evil god Molech, and what his worshipers brought: their firstborn son.**
- **What or how much would it take to place on the sacrificial altar to impress YHWH? This seems to be a rhetorical question that begs an honest answer. There's never enough!**
- **And a right attitude of bowing is included. Or is the bowing just part of the rite?**

The Answer

- **The question meant to cut to the heart of his listeners is addressed in verse 8.**
- **Micah reminds the people of Deuteronomy 10:12 and of Torah teaching which taught them how to rightly worship through the rites, but how to have a right attitude. Love.**
- **Micah repeats three requirements: "do justice." Do the Torah teaching on how to live. "love kindness." Live the life the Torah teaches. "walk humbly with your God" (Elohim). Have the right attitude in life that the Torah teaches.**
- **Is this not the fulfillment of the Torah's requirements?**

Micah Quoted by Jesus

- **Matthew 23:23.** Jesus includes Micah 6:8 in a teaching to the Pharisees on tithing. My NASB version says, “justice and mercy and faithfulness:” So the first two words are exact, but the third is different. Or is it? Is not a life lived in humility a life of faithfulness? If you are living a life of faith in Jesus, you have to follow His teachings, which are all given to be lived out in humility. Jesus lived His life in humble service to His Father, and asks us to also live a life of humility, with justice and mercy included.
- If Jesus is truly our example, won't we “act justly, love mercy and walk humbly with our God?” Are we?

Prayer

- **Father, I pray that we would live such a life that shows the world that we live according to Scripture and the life lived by our Lord and Savior. Help us to “act justly” whenever we are around people, to “love mercy” that is given us daily so that we may be merciful people, and to “walk humbly with our God” so that our life would be an example of a truly changed person who is being transformed by the Spirit, desiring to please our Lord first and foremost, so that His love will be shown to those who need a Savior.**
- **In Jesus’ name, Amen.**