

What God Requires of Everyone

International Bible Lesson

Micah 6:1-8

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“He hath shewed thee, O man, what is good; and what doth the LORD require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God?” (Micah 6:8—KJV).

“He has told you, O mortal, 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—NRSV).

Some people think they can please God by making sacrifices, but God does not want anyone to think they can substitute sacrificial giving for responsible living. In Micah’s day, some people thought their gods were tyrant kings; gods that demanded tribute from those they ruled; therefore, fearful worshippers brought valuable gifts to their priests. However, if someone sinned against the true God, what would please Him? Should someone bring God a sacrificial calf, a thousand rams, or a firstborn son? The Bible reveals that the Creator God is King over all, but giving things to God is not what God requires or seeks. Micah revealed that giving ourselves to God pleases God; however, as Paul wrote, if we give our possessions and bodies to God, but have not love, we gain nothing (1 Corinthians 13:3). Micah summed up the law of love by three ways of living. First, God requires those who want to be in a right relationship with God to treat other people justly. For example, to treat others justly includes not cheating, not stealing, and not lying about or to someone. A person cannot do what God requires if they are breaking the Ten Commandments. Second, believers need to do more than treat others as they deserve. God expects believers to show loving-kindness, which includes forgiving others. Third, God requires believers to walk humbly with God—to seek God’s purposes and will for their lives, to follow God instead of selfishly putting themselves first and using God and others to give them whatever they want.

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Thinking Further

1. What are some of the things that God did that wearied His people?
2. What land or kingdom was called “the house of slavery”?
3. Who did God send to lead His people from “the house of slavery”?
4. Which of the offerings for transgression listed in Micah will please the LORD?
5. What does God require from His people?