
Sermon Notes

July 5, 2020

First Congregational Church of Pomfret

Do Justice, Love Kindness, Walk Humbly Micah 6:8

“Minor” Prophets

- ❖ The OT ends with a series of books known collectively as the Minor Prophets
 - “minor” refers to length, not importance
 - the Minor Prophets sound a heart cry for God’s people to recover and recapture a right relationship with God
- ❖ The OT revolves around God’s choice of a people for Himself
- ❖ God’s people repeatedly fail to fulfill God’s purposes and mission for them
 - in the midst of massive defection, God sends spokespeople to stand up and speak truth to His people
 - the Minor Prophets look forward to a future when God’s people will encompass both Jew and Gentile

Micah 6

- ❖ Court is in session
 - God summarizes His indictment against His people (6:3-4) and calls for them to plead their case

- instead of pleading with the judge, Micah pleads with his people to turn their hearts back to God
- ❖ Faced with the insurmountable deficit that exists between God and His people, the natural inclination of the human heart is to want to do “something big” for God
 - outward rituals and ceremonies are not what God is looking for
 - God wants His people to pursue justice, kindness and humility
 - God wants changed hearts, and He works to change our moral character from the inside out
 - God knows we can’t change our hearts on our own, so He gives us what we need to accomplish this
- ❖ Only through faith in Christ can we learn to do justice, love kindness and walk humbly with God
 - Spurgeon, “What the law requires, the gospel gives.”
 - we must rely on what Jesus has done for us and what Jesus is doing in us

DO Justice

- ❖ Prejudice and bias based on race, ethnicity, social or economic status and political views are sins that are woven deeply into the human heart
 - subtle and overt racism grieves the heart of God
 - even though progress has been made in recent decades, vestiges of racial inequality continue to haunt our land
- ❖ How does Christ change us so that we can **DO** justice?
 - personal definitions *vs.* a Biblical definition of justice

- justice is doing what's right according to the standard of God's will and character as He reveals it in His Word
- oftentimes, anger wells up and is used as a weapon to destroy whatever opposes our personal vision of what justice is
 - *we must be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger* (James 1:19-20)
 - we develop an understanding of justice based on the Bible
 - all people are made in the image of God
 - all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God
 - through Christ, God adopts us into His family and calls us to treat one another with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness and patience
- ask Christ to open your eyes to your blind spots (Psalm 139:23-24)
- pray that God will give you courage to take personal action when you witness unjust behavior

LOVE Kindness

- ❖ Love what God loves... love like God loves
 - be kind to others in the same way God is kind to you
 - *Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep* (Romans 12:15)
- ❖ Weep and grieve over those who experience loss AND over those who perpetrate and perpetuate violence

- ❖ **LOVE** kindness by praying that God will give grace to everyone on every side of this issue to turn to God, repent, and grieve deeply over sin

WALK Humbly

- ❖ Always examine your heart in the mirror of God's Word
- ❖ Walking humbly with God requires
 - constant communion with the Lord
 - obedience and submission
 - activity NOT passivity (*He must increase but I must decrease*)
- ❖ All of our aims, ambitions, actions and relationships should be characterized by humility
- ❖ Remember that ONLY God has "all the answers"

Personal Application

1. Which aspects of Micah's command to do justice, love kindness and walk humbly with God are most difficult for you? Why do you sense that to be the case?
2. Identify one or two practical steps suggested in this message that you want to act upon. Commit yourself to them in prayer before the Lord and enlist the help of a friend or family member to hold you accountable to your resolves.
3. Why is walking humbly with God a prerequisite to doing justice and loving kindness. What will you do to cultivate a more humble walk with God?