

Sermon: Consistent Call to Care
Micah 6:6-8

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Micah 6:6-8

“With what shall I come before the Lord, and bow myself before God on high? Shall I come before him with burnt offerings, with calves a year old? Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of ram, with ten thousands of rivers of oil? Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?”

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?

Sermon

Faith is more than a philosophy or a way of thinking. Faith is more than knowing or saying a set of scripted words or formulaic prayers. Faith is more than worship in pews on Sunday mornings or a checkbox on a survey asking about ones religious views. Faith, Christian faith, is a way of life, a way of being, acting, talking, breathing.

Second maybe only to John 3:16, Micah 6:8 is one of those verses that is depicted simply by chapter and verse in many places: bumper stickers and necklaces, on wristbands and flags. And within that simple verse we find a statement of faith, a calling upon the life of all believers: "to seek justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with your God?"

But if we are not careful, we can fall into the trap of knowing the right words without living out what the words call us to be. What does it mean to seek justice? Do we need to all become police officers or lawyers? Maybe, though Are we called to protest on behalf of those who receive injustice by kneeling during the national anthem or raising signs of protest while stoping traffic? But if we think seeking justice is simply sitting back in our pews and wishing we could do something, praying that someone else will intervene, speak up, seek justice so that we don't have too - then the words are just words.

In today's over connected world, too often our way of telling a story or expressing ones thoughts is through negatives. We point out what is wrong, what is broken, we look for sin and exploit the sin for clicks, ratings, or attention. And we all get sucked into it, political pundits telling us what is wrong with the candidates and what is wrong with you if you disagree. Stories of bombings, war, drugs and murders. I wonder if at times we try to shine the light of justice into the darkness to the point that the light of kindness and love and grace becomes invisible?

But maybe in the midst of injustice and an infatuation with darkness, maybe what we can do is find a way to serve, to put our faith into practice by acts of kindness with those in need, both our neighbors and the least among us. Today we will take the time to create, bake, decorate, and package items that will go out into our community. Some will go to prisoners, some will go to homeless and hungry, some will serve those who have been abused. Some of what we do today will share love with our shut-in members and some will help care for tasks that are difficult for some among us to do on their own. We will reach out into our community through care and kindness to our police and firefighters. Today is all about Micah 6:8, seeking justice and loving kindness. And we do it all, not for our own glory, but as an act of faith, believing that in serving we are walking humbly with our God.

Today you are the sermon, your hands and your feet are the gospel. Today your lives are living out Micah 6:8. God's good news is alive in each of you, now let your light shine.