

SG Q Micah 6.1-8

1. Micah 6.8 is a well known verse but it is perhaps mostly read or referred to in isolation. The immediate context in ch 6 is a court case against Judah's actions (v.1-2: initiation of the case; v.3-5: God's argument; v.6-7: Judah's response; v.8: God's response). The larger context is coming future judgement upon Judah (ch 1-3) and the promise of God's future complete salvation, including Micah 5.2 quoted in Mt 2.6 (ch 4-5). You may want to read at least Micah 1.1-7 and 4.1-8. How does this immediate and larger context add to understanding 6.8? How does it intensify this verse?
2. Micah 6.8 has three main phrases. Discuss how each of these only has its true meaning against the backdrop of God's initiating actions in our lives and in the world, i.e. we are not meant to just grab the words ("justice, kindness, humility") and run with them according to our 21st c. or personal definitions.
 - a. To do justice (hebrew: mishpat): how does "rectifying justice" require the standard of God's righteousness, 6.5? Refer to the 1st and 3rd quote in the bulletin.
 - b. To love kindness (better definition: steadfast love) (hebrew: hesed): how must God's initiating covenantal steadfast love define and enable our call and actions to mercy?
 - c. To walk humbly with your God (better def.: insightful, wise, corresponding): how does God's character define what ours should be? Do you see greatly Israel and Judah did not walk with God in "correspondence" (compare God's actions (6.4,5) and Judah's (6.6,7)?
 - d. How do we keep justice and mercy both as a critical application that comes forth from God's work in the gospel and that is always attached to the foundations of the Gospel
3. *So what should 6.8 look like in your life, in your small group's, in Grace Hill's?
 - a. Who and what needs rectifying justice?
 - b. Who and what needs covenantal faithful love?
 - c. What is required to make sure we grow in walking in humble correspondence with our God?
 - d. How do we pursue opportunities? How do we do the best things?
 - e. How do we acknowledge our limitations in this sphere of mission? (We were created with great dependencies and limitations after all, Gen 1, 2.)
 - f. How do we not create dependencies? See the second quote in the bulletin.
 - g. How do we make sure we act and not just talk? How do we make sure our actions are founded on and strengthened by gospel reflection?
4. What are the questions, contingencies, discussions around this topic that you've been thinking about?
5. Pray
 - a. Confess your sins
 - b. Receive God's forgiveness in Micah 7.18-19:
 - i. ¹⁸ Who is a God like you, pardoning iniquity and passing over transgression for the remnant of his inheritance? He does not retain his anger forever, because he delights in steadfast love.
 - ¹⁹ He will again have compassion on us; he will tread our iniquities underfoot. You will cast all our sins into the depths of the sea.
 - c. Pray for individuals you know to experience God's rich covenant forgiveness.
 - d. Pray for vision, energy, wisdom to build Christ's Kingdom with His strength and for His glory.