



LIVING THE MICAH MANDATE
Kingdom Politics – Part 3
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September 8, 2024

The prophet Micah perfectly summarized what God expects of us, "...and what does the LORD require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God" (Micah 6.8). These words are then repeated by Jesus Himself in Matthew 23.23. As we wrap up Kingdom Politics, this final message shows us how God plans to use us to change the world. You don't want to miss it.

"The teaching of the New Testament is foreshadowed in Micah's verse: 'What doth the Lord require of thee than to do justice, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God.'..." - Theodore Roosevelt

"I now make it my earnest prayer, that God would most graciously be pleased to dispose us all, to do justice, to love mercy, and to demean ourselves with that charity, humility, and pacific temper of mind, which were the characteristics of the Divine Author of blessed religion, for without an humble imitation and example in these things, we can never hope to be a happy nation." - George Washington

Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You give a tenth of your spices—mint, dill and cummin. But you have neglected the more important matters of the law—justice, mercy and faithfulness. You should have practiced the latter, without neglecting the former. Matthew 23.23

1. WHAT IS THE MICAH MANDATE?

The more important something is to God, the simpler He makes it.

He has showed you, O man, what is good. And what does the LORD require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God. Micah 6.8

Act justly

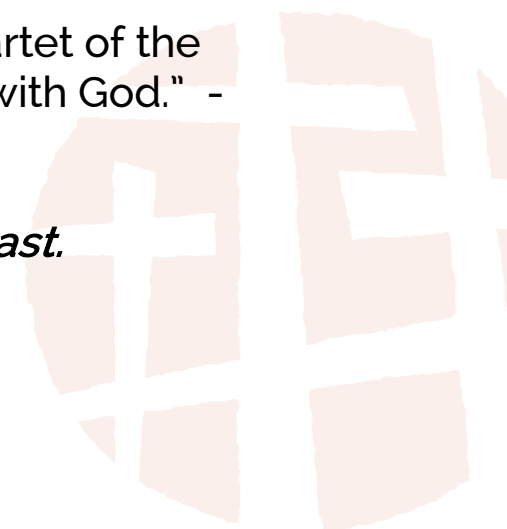
“When the Bible says, ‘Let justice roll down like a mighty stream,’ God doesn’t mean, ‘Let police forces expand, let prisons proliferate, and let criminals get their just deserts.’”
- Nicholas Wolterstorff

The Poor - The Orphan - The Widow - The Immigrant

“If you aren’t intensely concerned for the quartet of the vulnerable... it’s a sign your heart is not right with God.” -
Dr. Timothy Keller

The sign of the saved is their love for the least.

Love mercy



“There is no room for a gospel that is indifferent to the needs of all humanity.” - Carl F. H. Henry

“The State cannot tolerate any challenge to its claim on the heartstrings of Russian people.” - Vladimir Kharchev

“Unbelievers can argue theology. They can dispute philosophy. They can subvert history. And they can undermine character. But they are helpless in the face of extraordinary feats of selfless compassion.” - George Grant, *The Micah Mandate*

❑ Walk humbly

“...[walking was used as] a metaphor for ‘following in the ways of the Lord.’” - Skip Moen, Christian author and academic

“Walking humbly probably means walking without attracting attention, without seeking glory and without concern for yourself.” - Skip Moen, Christian author and academic

Pride is spiritual amnesia

“Regardless of the merits of a given issue, whether a pro-life lobby on the right, or a peace-and-justice lobby on the left, political movements risk pulling onto themselves the mantle of power that smothers love.” - Philip Yancey

“From Jesus I learn that whatever the activism I get involved in, it must not drive out love and humility. Otherwise, I betray the kingdom of heaven.”
- Philip Yancey

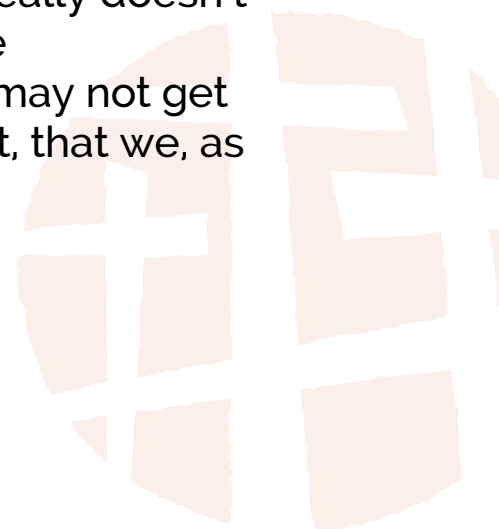
“We are seeing more and more that the church has fallen in love with the state and that this love affair is killing the church. The temptations of running the world’s largest superpower have bent the church’s identity. Having power at its fingertips, the church often finds ‘guiding the course of history’ a more alluring goal than following the crucified Christ. Too often the patriotic values of pride and strength triumph over the spiritual virtues of humility, gentleness, and sacrificial love.” - Shane Claiborne

2. THE QUALITIES OF A GOD-SHAPED LIFE

Remember those who led you, who spoke the word of God to you; and considering the result of their conduct, imitate their faith. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever. Hebrews 13.7-8

“Religion deals with both heaven and earth... Any religion that professes to be concerned with the souls of men and is not concerned with the slums that doom them, the economic conditions that strangle them, and the social conditions that cripple them, is a dry-as-dust religion.”
- Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

“We’ve got some difficult days ahead. But it really doesn’t matter with me now, because I’ve been to the mountaintop... I’ve seen the Promised Land. I may not get there with you. But I want you to know tonight, that we, as a people, will get to the Promised Land.”
- Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.



3. BECOMING A THIRD WAY PEOPLE

But I tell you, do not resist an evil person. If anyone slaps you on the right cheek, turn to them the other cheek also. And if anyone wants to sue you and take your shirt, hand over your coat as well. If anyone forces you to go one mile, go with them two miles. Matthew 5.39-41

We're called to be A THIRD WAY PEOPLE

To resist evil or not?

...do not resist an evil person. Matthew 5.39a

The Greek word for resist (antistenai) is a military term. It means more than just resistance. It's a word that actually means "counter aggression" or "to resist violently."

Don't react violently against the one who is evil. Matthew 5.39(Scholars Version)

"The problem of using violence always turns you into the very thing you hate." - Dr. Walter Wink

"The people of light are never more at risk than when they are lured into fighting the darkness with more darkness." - N.T. Wright

"Hitting back keeps the evil in circulation." - N.T. Wright

Demonstrations of creative active resistance

- Turn the other cheek



If anyone slaps you on the right cheek, turn to them the other cheek also. Matthew 5.39b

- Hand over your coat

And if anyone wants to sue you and take your shirt, hand over your coat as well. Matthew 5.40

- Go the extra mile

If anyone forces you to go one mile, go with them two miles. Matthew 5.41

The practice was called impressment.

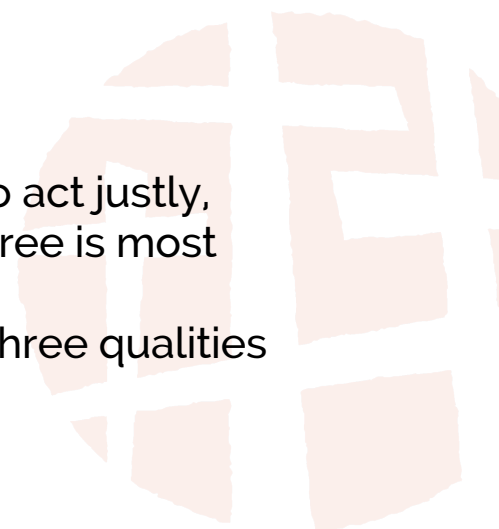
“We should not underestimate the significance of the small group of people who have a new vision of a just and gentle world. The quality of a culture may be changed when 2% of its people have a new vision.”

- Robert Bellah, Sociologist

“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, concerned citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has.” - Margaret Mead, cultural anthropologist

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. The three parts of the Micah Mandate are to act justly, love mercy and walk humbly. Which of the three is most developed in your life? Which of the three is underdeveloped in your life? Why are these three qualities



the unique marks of God's kids? Why is there an absence of these qualities in the world today?

2. Pastor Keith mentioned the most common sociological groupings in the Bible and they are as follows: the poor, the orphan, the widow and the immigrant. What do these various groups have in common? Why is God so concerned with them? Why does God see the treatment of these groups of people as an indicator of the justice or injustice of society? Take a few moments to reflect on Dr. Timothy Keller's statement, "If you aren't intensely concerned for the quartet of the vulnerable... it's a sign your heart is not right with God."

3. One of the more frequent objections to belief in God is the abundance of suffering in this world that He doesn't seem to do anything about. But Scripture makes clear that the primary way God extends compassion and help to those who suffer is through His people. If we fail to do our part, it's God's reputation that takes the hit. Where has God moved you in the past or present to be involved with others who are hurting, suffering or neglected? What was that experience like for you? What difference did it make in those you helped?

4. We live in a very violent world. But Jesus, in the Sermon on the Mount, countered conventional thinking by insisting that His followers not mirror the evil of society. How does this teaching challenge you? Why does it seem practically foreign even to Christians today? Is it possible to live in this broken world without returning violence for violence (like what Dr. King modelled in the quest for civil rights)?

5. What does it mean to be a third way people? Why are we so prone to reducing every problem or issue down to just one of two choices? What does it mean to be above the system (in other words, not so caught up in partisanship that you can see other possibilities or choices that neither party can see)? Do you ever find yourself thinking, "I don't agree with either party on this issue"? If so, have you ever dared to envision a third way of addressing the problem or issue that was not being reflected in the public debate? If so, what was it? How did you see the issue differently? How does our unique Christian perspective and ethic change the way we engage in politics?

