

“He Has Shown You O Man What Is Good”

(Compiled by Paul R. Blake from multiple sources)

Introduction:

- A. Aka: Theron's Prayer - Micah 6:8 - “He has shown you, O man, what is good; And what does the LORD require of you But to do justly, To love mercy, And to walk humbly with your God?” (NKJV)
 - 1. Micah 6:8 reminds us of the conditions God set on His promises to Abraham, namely to do righteousness and justice - Gen. 18:19
 - 2. He told Moses the same - Deut. 10:12-13
 - 3. David, Samuel, Hosea, Isaiah, and Jesus emphasize God's preference for obedience, knowledge, and mercy over sacrifice and burnt offerings
 - 4. Psalm 51:15-16; 1Sam. 15:22; Hosea 6:6; Isa. 1:13-17; Matt. 23:23
- B. What has God shown us as good?

I. TO DO JUSTLY

- A. “For man to do justly, he must render unto everyone that which is due to them; not what is due them in men's eyes, but what is due them according to God's will.” (Adam Clarke)
 - 1. “To do justly means to act toward God and man according to the Divine standard of righteousness revealed in His law toward God and man” (Homer Hailey)
- B. To give God His due - Mark 12:28-30
- C. To give your neighbor his due - Mark 12:31
- D. To give to yourself what you are due - 1Cor. 6:19; Gal. 5:16-17
- E. Failure to do justly was one of the reasons Israel went into captivity
 - 1. Zech. 8:16-17, 7:8-14

II. TO LOVE MERCY

A. “Mercy is that benevolence, mildness or tenderness of heart, which makes it possible for a person to overlook injuries, or to treat an offender better than he deserves. Mercy is the disposition that tempers justice, and encourages an injured person to forgive trespasses and injuries, and to forbear punishment, or inflict less than law or justice will warrant. In this sense, there is perhaps no word in our language precisely synonymous with mercy. That which comes nearest to it is grace. It implies benevolence, tenderness, mildness, pity or compassion, and clemency, but exercised only towards offenders.” (Nelson Price)

- 1. “To love mercy means to show a compassionate warm-heartedness toward man; not merely to treat others fairly, but to show mercy when mistreated themselves.” (Homer Hailey)
- B. Mercy is one of the primary characteristics of God - Micah 7:18; Psalm 130:3
 - 1. While God is just, He delights in mercy. It is because of His mercy that any of us are alive - Eph. 2:4-10
- C. Because God delights in mercy, He expects His children to delight in mercy as well - Luke 6:36; Prov. 3:3, 11:17

III. TO WALK HUMBLY WITH YOUR GOD

- A. "This involves living in humble and submissive obedience to His desire and will. It can only happen when we recognize the absolute holiness and righteousness of God." (Homer Hailey)
- B. The humble of heart and spirit greatly please God - Isa. 57:15, 66:1-2
 - 1. We must first acknowledge our sins and then willing submit to God's mercy. It is only through humbling ourselves that we will be allowed to walk with God - 1Peter 5:5; Rom. 11:20, 12:3

IV. WHAT IS GOOD?

A. "The 'good' that [God] requires is the doing of His will. To accomplish that lofty (yet necessary) goal, man must act toward God and man according to the Divine standard of righteousness revealed in God's will; he must show every man a compassionate warm-heartedness; and walk humbly in recognition of the absolute holiness and righteousness of God by submitting to God through obedience to His desire and will. (Hailey, A Commentary on the Minor Prophets, p. 214.)

- B. There is no "Christian To Do List." It is just not that simple. It is far more than merely keeping commandments; it is transforming our nature into the nature of Jesus - Matt. 11:29
 - 1. But we must remember that it is a life of righteousness and not a series of righteous accomplishments.
- C. What does the Lord require of us? What we might think...
 - 1. Some might think all the Lord requires is the observance of specific acts of righteousness. The Pharisees thought the same
 - 2. Like attending church on Sunday, giving of our means, taking the communion; don't drink, don't swear, don't dance, don't chew, and don't mess around with girls who do
 - 3. As though if one does this, they have done all that is required. That's the impression we receive by their example and often by their words
- D. Even though we live under a different covenant, the Lord still requires us:
 - 1. To do justly
 - 2. To love mercy
 - 3. To walk humbly with our God
 - 4. Our worship activities may be different, but the things God requires of every person are still the same