

July 19, 2015



Oaks Early Risers Bible Class

The Oaks
Baptist Church
Grand Prairie, Texas

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FOOD FOR THOUGHT

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK:
God's requirements are met by
God's enabling

POEM FOR THE WEEK:
God gives to His servants this
promise: You'll not have to face
life alone; And when you grow
weak in your struggle, His
strength will prevail—not your
own. —Hess

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK:
*Now to Him who is able to do ex-
ceedingly abundantly above all that
we ask or think, according to the
power that works in us*
(Eph 3:20 NKJV)

(From "Our Daily Bread", Aug 20, 2009)

Series: GOD DEMANDS JUSTICE

**UNIT: Micah Calls for Justice
Among Unjust People**

NEXT WEEK

God's Matchless Mercy
(Micah 7:14-20)

What the Lord Requires Micah 6:3-8

Aim and Application of the Lesson

The lesson reviews the biblical answers to the question **What the Lord Requires**. The **study's aim** is to show that if we can understand and implement the principles outlined in the lesson, we may well escape discipline and enjoy God's blessing. The **study's application** is to start today to dynamically employ the principles available to us to follow the Lord in our lives.

(Adapted from the Bible Expositor and Illuminator Commentary)

Lesson Introduction and Background

Christian author Howard Hendricks (1924-2013) used to tell a story about Bud Wilkinson, who was the head football coach at the University of Oklahoma from 1947 to 1963. On one occasion, Wilkinson was in a certain city giving a series of lectures on physical fitness. During an interview, a reporter asked, "Mr. Wilkinson, what would you say is the contribution of football to physical fitness?" The reporter expected a rather lengthy answer, but Wilkinson's reply was surprisingly brief: "Absolutely nothing." The reporter, somewhat taken aback, responded, "Would you care to elaborate on that?" "Certainly," the coach said. "I define football as 22 men on the field who desperately need rest and 50,000 people in the stands who desperately need exercise." Today's study is a challenge to be more than spectators—to know what God requires of us all. Our task is to "get out on the field" and do it. But it is easy to drift into the thinking that a calling from God applies only to those in specialized Christian service (preachers, missionaries, etc.). The fact is that all God's people are called to be salt and light in being his instruments of bringing gospel hope to a fallen world (Matthew 5:13-16). It wasn't only Christian leaders whom Paul addressed when he wrote "I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received" (Ephesians 4:1). Likewise, the calling God issued to his people in Old Testament times was not just to leaders. His covenant addressed all the Israelites as "a kingdom of priests and a holy nation" (Exodus 19:6). Where they failed to be so is our warning.

Just before today's text, the Lord began confronting His people as though He were a prosecutor in a courtroom. He challenged the people to plead their case "before the mountains; let the hills hear what you have to say" (Micah 6:1, 2). This language is rooted in the "witness language" used by Moses in Deuteronomy 30:19. The witnesses of Heaven, earth, the mountains, etc., had remained in place since the time of that great leader. Thus they have watched the history of the Israelites through the years. They were commanded in Micah 6:2 to "hear" what the Lord had to say about his people and to verify whether his assessment of them was accurate.

A television commercial from a few years ago featured a person wondering about how to prepare for retirement. As he pondered, a green pathway appeared magically on the ground. All he had to do was follow it! The dilemma was solved in about 15 seconds of commercial air time! "What does the Lord require of you?" asks Micah in today's text. His answer, in essence, is this: You know the answer—God has already shown it to you. Just follow the path of his revealed truth. It bears repeating that many seek to know God's will in certain areas even though his answer is already available—if they would only take the time to look into his Word. The oft-quoted advice is still true: "When all else fails, read the instructions"—especially when those instructions come from God!

(Adapted from the NIV Standard Lesson Commentary)

NOTES AND CROSS-REFERENCES

THE CHALLENGE OF GOD (MICAH 6:3-5)

Has God not blessed (3)

Blessing of salvation (Rom 5:8-9)

Blessing of life (Gen 2:7)

Blessing of provisions (Ps 136:23-26)

Blessing of protection (Ps 37:28)

Has God not delivered (4)

Deliverance from Satan (Matt 6:13)

Deliverance from deadly perils (2 Cor 1:10)

Deliverance from troubles (Ps 34:19)

Deliverance from trials (2 Peter 2:9)

Deliverance from temptations by providing a way out (1 Cor 10:13)

Is God not righteous (5)

Righteous and full of grace and compassion (Ps 116:5)

Righteous in His laws (Ps 119:137)

Righteous in all His ways (Ps 145:17)

Righteous in all He does (Dan 9:14)

THE REQUIREMENTS OF GOD (MICAH 6:6-8)

Recognition of what pleases God (6-7)

Recognize that living as children of light pleases God (Eph 5:8-10)

Recognize that obedience pleases God (Colossians 3:20)

Recognize that praying for others pleases God (1 Tim 2:1-3)

Recognize that living in righteousness pleases God (1 John 3:22)

To live justly (8)

Justification only comes through faith in Jesus Christ (Rom 3:22-24)

To be just is to do what is right and acceptable to God (Prov 21:3)

To be just is to live a clean life and stop doing wrong (Isa 1:16-17)

God loves the just and will not forsake them (Ps 37:28)

God guards the course of the just (Prov 2:7-8)

To be just has the same requirements as the type of fasting that God desires (Isa 58:6-11)

To be just is to reform our ways (Jer 7:3-6)

To love mercy (8)

God requires mercy because it is a blessing (Matt 5:7)

God requires mercy because it is a prerequisite of getting mercy (Matt 18:32-35)

God requires mercy because He is merciful and wants us to be also (Luke 6:36)

God requires mercy because it is a characteristic of His chosen people (Col 3:12)

God requires mercy because mercy triumphs over judgment (James 2:13)

Mercy has as its components love, compassion, kindness and patience (Ps 103:8-14)

Walk humbly with God (8)

God requires humility because it is a requirement for being with Him (Isa 57:15)

God requires humility because it shows our repentance of sin (Ezek 16:63)

God requires humility because is it a blessing (Matt 5:3)

God requires humility because it leads to justification (Luke 18:13-14)

God requires humility because it is a part of submission to God (James 4:7-8)

God requires humility because it is a prerequisite of being lifted up by God (1 Peter 5:5-6)