



**Mustard Seed Lesson Summary for Sunday, 1 July 2007
Released on Wednesday, June 27, 2007**

Committed to God's Requirements (God Wants Us to Do Right)

GOLDEN TEXT:

"He hath shewed thee, O man, what is good; and what doth the Lord require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God?" (Micah 6:8)

SCRIPTURE LESSON TEXT: Micah 3:1-4; 6:6-8

Micah 3:1-4

1 And I said, Hear, I pray you, O heads of Jacob, and ye princes of the house of Israel; Is it not for you to know judgment?

2 Who hate the good, and love the evil; who pluck off their skin from off them, and their flesh from off their bones;

3 Who also eat the flesh of my people, and flay their skin from off them; and they break their bones, and chop them in pieces, as for the pot, and as flesh within the caldron.

4 Then shall they cry unto the LORD, but he will not hear them: he will even hide his face from them at that time, as they have behaved themselves ill in their doings.

Micah 6:6-8

6 Wherewith shall I come before the LORD, and bow myself before the high God? shall I come before him with burnt offerings, with calves of a year old?

7 Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams, or 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?

8 He hath shewed thee, O man, what is good; and what doth the LORD require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God?

THE OBJECT IN VIEW:

Teach that in His Word God lets us know the kind of life He wants His people to live.

TRUTHS TO STRESS:

1. The Lord wants to see His people doing right to others.
2. The Lord wants to see His people doing what is kind.
3. The Lord wants to see His people thinking about Him and trusting Him.

PLANNING VISUAL AIDS:

For the "Helping to Remember" section, you will need construction paper, safety scissors, crayons, and glue for each child. You will also need old magazines and/or newspapers.

LESSON BACKGROUND:

The Prophet Micah is sent to deliver God's message to a nation that had allowed dishonest trade, government corruption and social injustice to become a part of the daily routine. The Prophet Micah brought judgment on God's people who were literally staying awake at night planning evil (Micah 2:1), cheating families out of homes and land (2:2, 8) and much more. False prophets even promised security to those who gave them food and disaster to those who refused to feed them (3:5). Business people used dishonest scales (6:11), and Micah even warned the people not to trust their neighbors, family and friends (7:5-6).

On God's behalf, Micah condemned such sins as idolatry, false prophecy, and oppression of the poor. He foretold judgment from God, including the downfall of Samaria and Jerusalem, but he also foretold the restoration of God's people and the birth of the Messiah.

In this week's lesson, the prophet Micah focuses on what God wants and what He requires of us.

TEACHER'S NOTES / TELLING THE LESSON:

1. Who was Micah?

Micah was another of the Old Testament prophets who also lived about the time of Isaiah, Hosea and Amos. We know very little about him. We are told his hometown and the time period of his prophecies (Micah 1:1; Jeremiah 26:18). Micah lived in Moresheth-gath, a town about twenty miles southwest of Jerusalem. He prophesied during the reigns of three kings of Judah around 700 B.C. Micah's prophecies were for both Judah (the southern kingdom) and Israel (the northern kingdom).

2. What angered God in Micah's day?

The people of God were not only doing wrong but took pleasure in the wrong. They were judged by their actions and found to love evil more than good. The people, even the leaders, were consumed by greed and wickedness. God saw all that they were doing, and what He saw was not good. He saw them being selfish. He saw them taking for themselves what belonged to other people. He saw them not caring how they treated others. He saw them wanting to get all the good things for themselves.

3. What practices did the people keep that made them think they were OK with God?

At the same time the people were doing wrong and seeking evil, they were keeping the temple rules. Every day and on special days, they would bring sacrifices to the temple and continue their offerings to God. They thought that this would please God, no matter what else they did. The people were offering sacrifices to God knowing that they intended to continue their evil ways.

God, however, would not be satisfied by large, expensive sacrifices given by those who were unjust and corrupt.

4. What was Micah's message from God?

The prophet's famous message is recorded in Micah 6:8. This verse has been called the "key to the prophets" and is a concise summary of what God demands from his people. Micah speaks of three attitudes that will result in behavior that is pleasing to God. The Lord defined what He considered morally upright and what He required of His people.

Micah told the people that God had showed them what was good. God's requirements for His people include that we treat others justly (with honesty, integrity and equity); that we love mercy and are kind to others; and that we walk humbly and live according to God's rules.

5. What did Micah mean by "walk" with God?

To "walk" with God mean to think about Him every day and to know that He is always present, taking care of us. It means to accept God rules rather than try to make our own. By walking with God, we accept God's standards of how we are supposed to live – we do right, live righteously even if no one else is aware of our actions. We do what is expected of us simply because it is the right thing to do and because God requires it. This is walking with God.

TELLING HOW TO LIVE:

God expects His people to live up to His high moral standards. We are not just to go through the motions of worship, prayer and other religious activities. God expects for us to grow in our love for Him and to become more like Jesus. God wants to see us acting justly, loving mercy and walking humbly with Him.

Opportunities to take a stand on the side of justice and mercy are everywhere. Encourage your students to take advantage of these opportunities to do what God requires of us. When friends and other students mistreat them at school, they have the opportunity to demonstrate mercy. When they hear gossip or bad things against a friend, it can become an occasion for them to act justly. Let's use every opportunity that is given to us to live up to the requirements that God has for each of us.

HELPING TO REMEMBER:

At the top of their construction paper, have each student write "Do Good." Let the students cut out pictures of people doing good and glue to the construction paper. Let volunteers share their examples of people doing good.

Distribute copies of the word search at the end of the lesson.

EXPLAINING THE GOLDEN TEXT:

“He hath shewed thee, O man, what is good; and what doth the Lord require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God?” (Micah 6:8)

How does God want you to live? He has shown us – just as He had shown the people of Micah’s day. God has shown us what is good. What He wants is for us to accept His standards and rule our lives by them. He wants us to treat others fairly. He wants us to show mercy to others even when they do not deserve it. He wants us to walk humbly, giving glory to Him and acknowledging His standards to be right and good.

PRAYER

Our Father in heaven, only You know what is right and good. We praise You for Your goodness. Help us to listen to You, to be more like You, and to be examples of Your goodness. Help us to do right, to love others and to be humble. In Jesus’ name, amen.

ANTICIPATING NEXT WEEK’S LESSON:

Next week’s lesson is “Committed to Righteousness (God Will Judge)” from Zephaniah 3:1-5, 8-9

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WORD SEARCH: Micah 3:1-4; 6:6-8

**Committed to God's Requirements
(God Wants Us to Do Right)**

Find each of the following words.

JACOB

OFFERINGS

JUSTLY

RIGHT

LOVE

MICAH

TRANSGRESSION

PROPHET

MERCY

ISRAEL

HUMBLY

GOOD

REQUIRE

JUDGMENT

CALDRON

D B I M I C A H N Y U N E T E H P O R P N U C
S D Y O O B N H O E R E Q U I R E N G O E L A
I V L G J D R O I O S T G E G O N E R R T B U
O E T S B O L S S E M E N I G T E O A L S S O
S C S E H R I E S S O M E O N B I F D N A A S
J C U A E I G R E C Y E O G R F Q I I L E D J
L H J R I N B R R D D E F M A D N N O B O D I
O A E H S O I B G S E E F G T T L V O O S U R
O G S R C C E A S I I I E O O C E A G R O E T
A R N A F C C J N O H V R T R L T J C D T T A
B T J Y E I O F A G E M I N S T T V B A L C G
L E A R S I R V R N E B N R E F H B I E C S S
J U D G M E N T T R R I G B N Y G U G M C I R
L U R H B U G P C O G S S I A R I L L E N I T
Y L B M U H R Y T I T L T C N M R P V U R I J
M E M E M R U L A R I R A J J O T Y M H L H L

Answer Key

JACOB	LOVE	MERCY	REQUIRE
OFFERINGS	MICAH	ISRAEL	JUDGMENT
JUSTLY	TRANSGRESSION	HUMBLY	CALDRON
RIGHT	PROPHET	GOOD	

M I C A H N T E H P O R P

Y O R E Q U I R E

L I

T S N

S S O

U E O R L D

J B R F D O O

O G F L V O

C S E E A G

A N R C

J A M I T

L E A R S I R E N H

J U D G M E N T T R G G

C S I

Y L B M U H Y R