

What does God require?

Micah 6:1-8

The passage from Micah implores the people to do what God requires after rebuking how they have lived in the past. God presents his case against the people, reminding them of his faithfulness to them and that he does not require sacrifices or burnt offerings, but just and loving actions.

Today's readings may be a culture shock because, unlike the people of Micah's time, we don't envisage bringing livestock or groceries as offerings to worship. In contrast, the Beatitudes in Matthew explore what we can bring in our behaviour and interactions. Today, we're focusing on the why and what of offerings in our Christian lives.

Read this week's passage:



LISTEN



Sit silently and listen to *Micah 6:8*, by The Marantha! Singers, from beginning to end. When it has finished, spend another two minutes in silence, contemplating the words. Play the track again, and at the end, encourage everyone to join in by saying 'Amen'.

DRAW



Draw round the feet of the members of your household and place the paper footprints where you can see them, so you can discuss each day how you have shown kindness and compassion and walked humbly with God. Write some of your discussions on the footprints.

Remember

As you put on your shoes each day, say the words from the second half of Micah 6:8, so you learn them by heart: 'To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God'.

Living Scripture

'What does the LORD require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?' Micah 6:8

We can easily get caught up with following rules and keeping traditions, trying to please God (and impress others). Whether this is giving money, attending church, serving those in need or being honest – all good things, but our hearts can be far from God as we do them. While many of our Christian behaviours or traditions may start with good motives, or the call or conviction of the Spirit, as time goes by, we can lose the love that first motivated our actions and respond simply out of habit. It is easy to believe God blesses us as a reward for our good behaviour, worship or prayers, becoming transactional in our relationship with God. This passage reveals that God is more interested in us living justly, and our kind motives and humble attitudes of our heart.

God confronts his people through the prophet Micah. They complain God hasn't noticed all their sacrifices and good works. They had hoped to tick the boxes and get God's approval and blessing. God says there's really only three things he's looking for: justice, kindness and humility.

Reflect with God on your life. If you have regular spiritual practices, is love at the root of it all? Is your life characterised by justice, kindness and humility?

First impressions

- What does God want us to do with our hands, our hearts and our feet?
- Do our actions mean more than our words? How might we use both in worship?
- How can you do justice, love kindness and walk humbly with God this week?



Pray

O God, what do you require of us?
Do you require us to be the best and do the most?

No.

Do you require us to turn our hearts to you and live with justice, kindness and humility?

Yes.

Give us what we need to adopt the beautiful attitudes you want for your people.

Amen.



IMAGINE

Choose one or more Beatitudes to illustrate. Some will be easier than others! As you draw, talk about the difficulties you face.

