

# Power to Do, Love and Walk

## Micah 6:6-8

<sup>6</sup> With what shall I come before the LORD, *And* bow myself before the High God? Shall I come before Him with burnt offerings, With calves a year old?

<sup>7</sup> Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams, Ten thousand rivers of oil? Shall I give my firstborn *for* my transgression, The fruit of my body *for* the sin of my soul?

<sup>8</sup> 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?

Yesterday I was reading a newspaper in Mexico called "El Herald" and in a note examining the current condition of the world, the author writes: "We live in a broken society"

And the truth is that many of us have felt helpless in light of the injustice, revenge and debauchery that we have been experiencing.

Talking with some friends, they have literally confessed to me that they do not know what to do, who to love or how to walk in the midst of the adverse circumstances we are experiencing.

And it is that, amid the expressions of anger, indignation and many times anarchy of the people, the children of God are confronted with the question: What can I do? And when the answer looms on the horizon, the next question is, will I be able to do what God asks of me?

This morning I want to tell you that these are not times of silence or stillness. God expects of every man a specific action, a specific feeling and a specific character.

In the words of the Cuban singer Pablo Milanés:

Life is worthless  
If I stay seated  
After I have seen and dreamed  
That everywhere I'm being call to action  
Life is worthless  
When others are being killed  
And I'm still here singing  
As if nothing happened

And although for many of us these may seem like unprecedented times, let me tell you that the Bible tells us about the nation of Israel, which, in Micah's time, was a nominal nation (their faith in God was superficial), it was an unjust nation, and it was a proud nation.

And so God gives the command to this nation to live a life of justice, love mercy, and walk in humility.

And I want you to know something about God's commandments:

**Every commandment of God is also a call to a relationship with Him and to experience the power of the Holy Spirit to obey.**

So in our teaching today, I want you to consider **3 ways you can respond in the midst of a broken society.**

The first thing I want you to notice in verses 6 and 7 is the tone with which the people of Israel turn to God:

*<sup>6</sup>With what shall I come before the LORD, And bow myself before the High God? Shall I come before Him with burnt offerings, With calves a year old?*

*<sup>7</sup>Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams, Ten thousand rivers of oil? Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression, The fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?*

These are questions that arise from a heart full of bitterness and apathy. They speak to God sarcastically.

These are not the words of a people who want to do the right thing, these are the words of a people who believe that God is asking too much of them.

They were all aware that their society was broken, but they all blamed someone else for it.

When God confronts them with the truth that each and every one of them is guilty of abandoning God and that they are reaping injustice, decadence and death as a result, they respond with sarcasm, resentment and apathy.

**Bitterness and apathy blind us and make us respond to problems within our own depraved frame of reference.**

So, what is the frame of reference that you use to interpret your circumstances?

There are many ways to respond to the problems in our society and to the problems in our lives. But there's only one answer that can give you freedom, direction, and hope.

It is the answer that is based on what God has taught us in his word.

Look at what the first part of verse 8 says

<sup>8</sup> He has shown you, O man, what *is* good; And what does the LORD require of you

Yes ... we live in a broken society, in every corner we find injustice, pain, betrayal and sin.

But God is the restorer of ways, the healer of souls, he is faithful and in Jesus Christ he has the power to forgive and save the sinner.

His word gives us the answer to life's important questions, and guides us on the path that sets us in his kingdom.

The question is not what does God have to say about it? God has already spoken through his word and through his Son Jesus Christ.

God is not a statesman or social analyst God is not a psychologist or a politician.

God is the creator of the universe and the creator of man he loves us and has declared to us what he wants to give us and what he expects of us.

It is time for us to pay attention to what God has been telling us from the beginning.

What is the first way you can respond in the midst of a broken society?

**1 Do Justice**

The Bible does not say to be "vigilante", God wants us to do justice.

Our flesh would prefer the command to "love justice".

For example, if I ask people in the street, virtually everyone will say they love justice. But if I ask how are you doing justice specifically? the conversations quickly can become awkward.

It is much easier to "love justice" than to "do justice." It is much easier to rant against injustice than to take significant steps to stop it. To rant costs us so little or nothing.

Doing justice requires personal sacrifice, it might take our time and some times even pain.

What does, doing justice look like in practical life? See what John the Baptist says in:

### **Luke 3:10-14**

<sup>10</sup> So the people asked him, saying, "What shall we do then?"

<sup>11</sup> He answered and said to them, "He who has two tunics, let him give to him who has none; and he who has food, let him do likewise."

<sup>12</sup> Then tax collectors also came to be baptized, and said to him, "Teacher, what shall we do?"

<sup>13</sup> And he said to them, "Collect no more than what is appointed for you."

<sup>14</sup> Likewise the soldiers asked him, saying, "And what shall we do?"

So he said to them, "Do not intimidate anyone or accuse falsely, and be content with your wages."

John the Baptist preached repentance of sin and in a practical way shows us that a relationship with God manifests itself in a life of personal justice.

In other words, the **true justice of the heart is revealed in tangible acts of personal sacrifice for justice.**

The idea of justice is cheap, the act of justice is costly on a personal level.

See how James expresses it in

### **James 3:18**

Now the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.

James uses the example of a farmer, and you know what is the characteristic of farmers? THEY WORK A LOT

How is God calling you to work for justice in your own home?

How can you be a more just Christian in your work place, school, church?

Note that I didn't ask you how can you make others to be just?

God is calling you in a very personal way to do justice.

You might tell me, but that is very difficult! And I tell you: Yes it is, and the only way you can do it, it is through the power of the Holy Spirit.

Do you remember what we said about God's commandments?

**Every commandment of God is also a call to a relationship with Him and to experience the power of the Holy Spirit to obey.**

The second way you can respond in the midst of a broken society is:

## **2 Love Mercy**

When it comes to mercy, God turns the table around and commands us to "love mercy," not "do mercy."

Why? Because the commandment to "love mercy" has the same revealing effect as the commandment to "do justice."

Our flesh would prefer the commandment to say: "Do nice things."

Because then I would feel better about myself when I compare my kind actions with those of others.

But the command to "love mercy" penetrates the heart of things. This is much more demanding than just doing nice things.

Loving mercy implies a transformed heart that is oriented toward God first rather than toward good works.

And we cannot love mercy without loving people. We could get away with telling others that we love justice without doing much justice.

But it is very difficult to get away with saying that we love mercy if others know that we are often harsh, defensive, self-centered, impatient, irritable, critical, or willing to step on people for personal gain.

Mercy is also expensive. Mercy often requires that we put the needs of others before ours.

### **We cannot love mercy and selfishness at the same time**

So, God tests our hearts by making mercy something we love and not something we do.

Let us ask ourselves these questions: do we love to forgive? Do we love our enemies? Do we love to put the needs of others before ours?

IMPOSSIBLE, RIGHT?

It is humanly impossible but when you receive Jesus as your Lord, He pours his love into your heart (**Romans 5: 5**) and his love compels your heart.

In other words, Jesus gives you the power to love mercy.

If you feel like you're lacking in this area, ask God to pour out his love in your heart and make you aware of the needs of those who are around you.

The third way you can respond in the midst of a broken society is:

### **3 Walk in Humbleness**

As we are meditating together on the justice that God wants us to do and the mercy that God wants us to love, we must all be receiving conviction from the Holy Spirit.

And the answer to this conviction is humility before God. Humility manifests itself in a practical way as repentance.

God was leading the people of Israel to repentance and God wants to lead our nations to repentance.

Do you believe that? The way we show that we believe this, is when we allow ourselves to be led by God to repentance.

Today we have two options: Either we ignore his goodness, mercy, and patience (**Romans 2:4**) or we respond to God in humility and repentance.

God said: "Walk in humility", the idea is that walking with God is a lifestyle of humility and repentance.

Walking in repentance is not walking in condemnation, it is walking in victory.

**When man's response to the Spirit's conviction is repentance, God's response to man's repentance is his unconditional love.**

Look how he says it

**Romans 5: 8**

*But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.*

The miracle of the gospel resides in that what God asks of us in Micah 6:8, He also bought for us on the cross and gives us the strength to live it.

The Holy Spirit convicts us, only to lead us to God in humility and thus empower us to do justice, love mercy and walk in humble victory.

And that's good news.

How are you going to respond to the good news dear friend?

Have you already understood what God asks of you? Are you tired of trying to do the right thing without reaching it? You need the power of God!

The only way you can receive the power of God is if repent of your sin and place your faith in Jesus Christ.

GOSPEL...