

INTRO

- What is the most remote or quietest place you have ever visited? How did it feel to be there?

READ

Read Micah 6:6-8

REFLECT

There are many times in our lives when we are presented with the question, how does God want me to live my life? It could be in a season of making important choices, in a time when we feel lost, or maybe when we are just grateful for His love and mercy and want to live a life that pleases Him in response.

Micah was a prophet that brought this question to the people of Israel during a time when they were about to face judgment for the many evils they were committing, but also a time of God's promising that salvation would still come despite everything. Before we look at the answer to this important question, let's make it clear what the question is *not* about.

1. Not about saving ourselves

One thing was made clear through Micah and other prophets: salvation was always from God alone. We can't save ourselves, but God in His mercy has decided to save us. Therefore, we seek to live a life that pleases God not to achieve salvation, but because we are already saved.

Qu: What happens when we forget that we are already saved by God through Jesus Christ?

2. Bad answers to the question

The way Micah asks the question exposes at least three bad answers to the question of how to live a life pleasing to God: (1) It's not about performing religious rituals or spiritual recipes; (2) it's not about impressing God with human greatness; (3) it's not about using worldly methods of achieving success.

Qu: Have you ever found yourself falling for one of these mistakes?

3. What God requires of you

Micah gives his answer in three parts. Firstly, God is pleased by a life that seeks justice. God wants us to act upon and stand for what is right, to deal fairly and truthfully with everyone, and to not seek our benefit at the expense of others.

Secondly, God wants us to love mercy. Mercy goes beyond what justice requires and looks for ways to serve others even at our own expense. Jesus reminds us in Luke 6:36 that we are to be merciful because God has shown mercy toward us. The mercy of the Cross is our greatest role model.

Finally, we are to walk humbly with our God. That means that we are to live near to Him, being part of what He is doing and inviting Him to be part of everything we do. And when we start living to the "audience of One", we can finally lead a humble life where it is enough that God sees what we do.

Qu: In which of these three areas do you feel being challenged to live it more fully?

Qu: How can meditating on Jesus' sacrifice at the cross during this lent season help us live out this answer to the fullest?

RESPOND & PRAY

LENT MMXXIII

A Pleasing Life

- What encouraged/challenged you the most from this discussion?
- Spend time praying for one another and those you know who need to hear the good news of salvation.