

God's eyes and sense the things that break His heart, we will naturally begin to do justice and love mercy and kindness.

Luke 18:14 NLT - 14 I tell you, this sinner, not the Pharisee, returned home justified before God. For those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted."

1 Peter 5:6 NLT - 6 So humble yourselves under the mighty power of God, and at the right time he will lift you up in honor.

Humility involves recognizing God's place of authority in your life. In humility we submit to God's will rather than exerting our own. We must humbly allow God to be the authority in our lives above all else.

Are we willing to see the world through Jesus' eyes before the platform of our political party? Are we willing to follow Jesus if it creates distance between us and our political party or candidate?

WRAP-UP

Jesus didn't rally the disciples around getting a new king in power. He rallied them around a new kingdom with him as king. As citizens of God's kingdom, we are called to do justice, love mercy and walk humbly with God. Our hope is not in the one who sits in the White House for four years, but in the one who occupies the throne of heaven for eternity.

Memory Verse

He has told you, O man, what is good; and 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 ESV

PRAYER (20 MIN)

Ask your group to pray for you regarding one area where you can apply this study in your life: _____

Pray for your group members' needs: _____

Challenge-. Ask God to show you if there are parts of your "normal" that are unjust to some people? How do your conversations and actions need to change to align with the value God sees in others?

"What the Lord Requires" "We the People" #1

INTRODUCTION

Micah 6:8 ESV - 8 He has told you, O man, what is good; and what does the LORD require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?

As followers of Jesus we are a people called to be distinctly different. Yet, few things tempt us to abandon this distinctiveness more than politics. In fact, it is easy to find ourselves promoting a version of faith shaped more by our favorite candidate or political party than by Jesus. As citizens of a different kingdom we must embrace our distinct voice; a voice that leads with kindness, justice, and humility- this is what the Lord requires of us. But how do we keep that in focus amidst the toxic environment of partisan politics?

Ice Breaker (Optional—8 min)

What year did you vote in your first presidential election?

STUDY QUESTIONS (45 MIN)

1. Do Justice

When we read Micah 6:8 we find three things outlined that the Lord requires of us. The first is to do¹ justice². The word justice has two different meanings. One is to pass judgment or avenge.

What does Jesus teach about judging others?

Matthew 7:1 NLT - 1 "Do not judge others, and you will not be judged.

So, we can eliminate passing judgment as what God requires of us. In this case "doing justice" refers to giving to people what they are justly due, or what is rightly theirs. And to determine what that is, we need to view people through God's eyes.

¹ `asah-to do, work, make, produce

² mishpat- judgment, right, privilege, or due

When God looks at us, what does He see?

Genesis 1:27 NLT - 27 So God created human beings in his own image. In the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.

Every one of us is a child of God, created in His image. We know how valuable we are to God because Jesus died to redeem us.

Paul tells us in Galatians 5 how we are called to live.

What are we to give to one another? What can cause us to destroy one another?

Galatians 5:13-15 NLT - 13 For you have been called to live in freedom, my brothers and sisters. But don't use your freedom to satisfy your sinful nature. Instead, use your freedom to serve one another in love. 14 For the whole law can be summed up in this one command: "Love your neighbor as yourself." 15 But if you are always biting and devouring one another, watch out! Beware of destroying one another.

This doesn't mean you will always agree, but that you have a choice in how you respond to those who disagree with you.

Loving someone you disagree with is more than just watching your tongue, it means checking the attitude of your heart. We are not called to passively avoid doing wrong. We are called to do justice (*`asah mishpat*) and that means we work to recognize the worth of all people as God views them, giving them the love, dignity and respect due to every one of us.

Compare this distinct voice of God's people to what is being heard in today's political rhetoric? Is it possible for us to love and serve both rich and poor, born and unborn, Republican and Democrat, Christian and non-Christian, citizen and immigrant?

2. Love Kindness

To love mercy, or kindness, is the second requirement Micah gives. Mercy or kindness is a term that includes loyal love, devotion and compassion.

It is interesting to see that we are not just to "be kind", but to love₃ kindness. When we love something, we have a strong desire or appetite for it. And so, we are not just called to be kind occasionally, but rather we must be committed to living a life governed by mutual respect, helpfulness and loving concern for one another, even in an election year.

₃ 'ahab

Does that sound impossible? It is apart from God's love and kindness.

Ephesians 4:32 NASB - 32 Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you.

Matthew 5:7 NLT - 7 God blesses those who are merciful, for they will be shown mercy.

In these two passages (*Ephesians 4:32 and Matthew 5:7*) we find that our kindness and mercy toward others is linked to God's kindness and mercy towards us.

What are some of the ways you have personally experienced God's kindness and mercy towards you?

If God is the source of our kindness, then we need to replenish our wells in order to reflect that kindness to others. You may want to pause for a moment and offer prayers of thanksgiving for God's kindness and mercy towards you and ask Him to instill in you a heart of kindness and mercy towards others.

3. Walk Humbly with God

The third of God's requirements is that we walk with Him, humbly. Our first question should be "Am I walking with God?" Walking with God means we are proceeding together, in step with Him in all aspects of our daily lives.

What are the points in your day that you sense God closest, and when do you sense Him least? What was the last decision you made based on God's prompting?

If we are sensitive to God's presence with us throughout our day, we will begin to see things as He sees them. If we see the world through