

WORLD CHRISTIAN OUTREACH, INC.

www.wcous.org, www.newdawncommunities.org

“He hath showed thee, O man, what is good; and what does the Lord require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly before thy God?”

Micah 6:8

Dear Friend from Stan,

The above passage is the keynote scripture for our Meetings in Tanzania in July. The Prophet Micah is telling Israel to do what is right – to do justly in all affairs, to love mercy and the forgiveness of God, and to live and act humbly before their God.

In one sense the words are an admonition and urging to do what is required of them by the Lord. The word “require”, however, can be harsh and refer to the requirements of the Law which cannot be carried out by natural man. *“For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God”* – Romans 3:23. We all fail and miss the mark. We look inside and know that sometimes we have not been just in our dealings with each other. We constantly find ourselves trying to “do” good works to justify the blessings of God. And, we are in an ever ending battle within ourselves to keep God on the throne rather than self. We cannot do what the words require in our own flesh. We cannot fulfill the requirements of the Law. We fall short as frail, imperfect, weak, leaking, sinful human beings.

But, this “requirement” is only one-half of what Micah is really trying to say. As a Prophet he knows that the only way that we can fulfill God’s requirements is to recognize that He is a giving God. *“For God so loved the world, that He gave his only begotten Son...”* – John 3:16. The Old Testament talks about “requiring” what we should do. The New Testament, centered in Jesus, tells about what God has given and done for us, so that we will be enabled to do what He requires. Mercy always is accompanied by justice. The justice of God has been satisfied by Jesus dying on the Cross, giving Himself, shedding His blood, and propitiating for the sins of the whole world. He died to pay the price for our sins. Jesus has purchased us with His costly shed blood – *“And ye are not your own, for ye are bought with a price.”* – 1 Corinthians 6:19-20. We as believers receive God’s mercy belonging to the One who has purchased us.

We are enabled to do what the above text requires of us because of what Jesus has done for us. *“He that spared not his own Son, but delivered Him up for us all; how shall He not with Him also, freely give us all things.”* Oh, the mercy of God! He will give us all things that are beneficial for us, because His justice and the requirements of the Law have been satisfied by Jesus dying on the Cross for us. And so we can now *“do justly, love mercy, and walk humbly before our God”* because of what Jesus has done! Praise God from whom all blessings flow.

The disciples of Jesus in John 6:28 asked him – *“what shall we do, that we might work the works of God?”* Jesus answered – *“This is the work of God that you believe on him whom he*

has sent". We are simply to trust and believe in Jesus. Simple child-like faith, walking humbly before our God. He is everything – we are nothing. And as self is taken off the throne, as "I" is put aside, and the natural man gives way to the spiritual man who is a partaker of the divine nature (I Peter 1:4), God Almighty works out his will through us – *"For it is God which works in you, both to will and to do of his good pleasure."* – Philippians 2:13. As we reduce and decline in self, God strengthens and multiplies Himself. As we rely and draw nigh unto God, He will come and draw nigh unto us and show himself strong in our behalf.

As I was praying for our Tanzania meetings, the Lord led me to the passages in I Samuel 17 where little David as a young shepherd boy faced the great giant Goliath. *"And when the Philistine looked about, and saw David, he disdained him; for he was but a youth, and ruddy, and of a fair countenance and he cursed David"*. But David said – *"Who is this uncircumcised Philistine, that he should defy the armies of the living God"*. And he said – *"You come to me with a sword, and with a spear, and with a shield: but I come to you in the name of the Lord of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied"*.

The world and the devil don't know who and what they are facing! They disdain the "weakness" of Christians and what we stand for. They come with all of their "strengths" of worldly power, money, position, influence, and prestige; but we come in the name of the living God. We come with child-like, mustard seed faith; just like David came with his sling and a stone. We come empowered by another, Jesus Christ, and the same power and resurrection life that raised Him from the dead, lives within us. And even that tiny mustard seed of faith within us is more than enough to move the mountains and giants that come against us from the world.

Let us *"do justly, love mercy, and walk humbly before our God"*. *"The weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strongholds"* – 2 Corinthians 10:4. We must be RIGHT before we go out to fight! When we have confidence in our heart that we are right before our God, then all things are possible. Listen to these beautiful words in I John 3:21, 22 – *"Beloved, if our heart condemn us not, then have we confidence toward God. And whatsoever we ask, we receive of him, because we keep his commandments, and do those things that are pleasing in his sight."*

"The secret of the Lord is with them that fear him" – Psalm 25:14. *"Let all the earth fear the Lord: let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of him"* – Psalm 33:8. *"The angel of the Lord encamps round about them that fear him, and delivers them"*. *O fear the Lord, ye his saints: for there is no want to them that fear him"* – Psalm 34:7, 9.

"He delights not in the strength of the horse; he takes not pleasure in the legs of a man. The Lord takes pleasure in them that fear Him, in those who hope in His mercy" – Psalm 147:10-11.

"Some trust in chariots, and some in horses: but we will remember the name of the Lord our God. They are brought down and fallen: but we are risen, and stand upright" – Psalm 20:7-8.