

*The Message of the Prophets*  
Justice and Mercy

Micah 6:8  
March 14, 2010

What Does God Expect?

- The message of Micah

*Micah's Rebuke*

"<sup>1</sup>Woe to those who devise wickedness and work evil on their beds! When the morning dawns, they perform it, because it is in the power of their hand. <sup>2</sup> They covet fields and seize them, and houses, and take them away; they oppress a man and his house, a man and his inheritance. "  
(Micah 2:1–2, ESV)

*Micah's Rebuke*

"Lately my people have risen up like an enemy. You strip off the rich robe from those who pass by without a care, like men returning from battle. (Micah 2:8, NIV)

*Micah's Rebuke*

"<sup>1</sup> Then I said, "Listen, you leaders of Jacob, you rulers of the house of Israel. Should you not know justice, <sup>2</sup> you who hate good and love evil; who tear the skin from my people and the flesh from their bones" (Micah 3:1–2, NIV)

*Micah's Rebuke*

"<sup>10</sup> Am I still to forget, O wicked house, your ill-gotten treasures and the short ephah, which is accursed? <sup>11</sup> Shall I acquit a man with dishonest scales, with a bag of false weights? <sup>12</sup> Her rich men are violent; her people are liars and their tongues speak deceitfully." (Micah 6:10–12, NIV)

### *What does the Law say?*

<sup>13</sup>You shall not have in your bag two kinds of weights, a large and a small. <sup>14</sup> You shall not have in your house two kinds of measures, a large and a small. <sup>15</sup> A full and fair weight you shall have, a full and fair measure you shall have, that your days may be long in the land that the Lord your God is giving you.” (Deut. 25:13–15, ESV)

### *What Does God Expect?*

- The message of Micah
- The message of Jeremiah

### *The message of Jeremiah*

<sup>3</sup>Thus says the Lord: Do **justice** and **righteousness**, and deliver from the hand of the oppressor him who has been robbed. And do no wrong or violence to the resident **alien**, the **fatherless**, and the **widow**, nor shed innocent blood in this place.” (Jer. 22:3, ESV)

### *What Does God Expect?*

- The message of Micah
- The message of Jeremiah
- The message of Zechariah

### *The message of Zechariah*

<sup>8</sup>And the word of the Lord came to Zechariah, saying, <sup>9</sup> “Thus says the Lord of hosts, Render true **judgments**, show **kindness** and **mercy** to one another, <sup>10</sup> do not oppress the widow, the fatherless, the sojourner, or the poor, and let none of you devise evil against another in your heart.” (Zech. 7:8–10, ESV)

### *The Message of Jesus*

- The teaching of Jesus

### *Justice and Mercy*

“Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you tithe mint and dill and cumin, and have neglected the weightier matters of the law: **justice** and **mercy** and **faithfulness**. These you ought to have done, without neglecting the others.”  
(Mat. 23:23, ESV)

### *What does the Law say?*

“<sup>9</sup>When you reap the harvest of your land, you shall not reap your field right up to its edge, neither shall you gather the gleanings after your harvest. <sup>10</sup> And you shall not strip your vineyard bare, neither shall you gather the fallen grapes of your vineyard. You shall leave them for the poor and for the sojourner: I am the Lord your God.” (Lev. 19:9–10, ESV)

### *What does the Law say?*

“<sup>13</sup>You shall not oppress your neighbor or rob him. The wages of a hired servant shall not remain with you all night until the morning. <sup>14</sup> You shall not curse the deaf or put a stumbling block before the blind, but you shall fear your God: I am the Lord. <sup>15</sup>You shall do no injustice in court. You shall not be partial to the poor or defer to the great, but in righteousness shall you judge your neighbor.” (Lev. 19:13–15, ESV)

### *The Message of Jesus*

- The teaching of Jesus
- The example of Jesus

### *The expensive ointment*

“<sup>6</sup>Now when Jesus was at Bethany in the house of Simon the leper, <sup>7</sup> a woman came up to him with an alabaster flask of very expensive ointment, and she poured it on his head as he reclined at table. <sup>8</sup>And when the disciples saw it, they were indignant, saying, “Why this waste? <sup>9</sup>For this could have been sold for a large sum and **given to the poor.**”  
(Mat. 26:6–9, ESV)

### *The use of their money*

“<sup>27</sup> Then after he had taken the morsel, Satan entered into him. Jesus said to him, ‘What you are going to do, do quickly.’ <sup>28</sup> Now no one at the table knew why he said this to him. <sup>29</sup> Some thought that, because Judas had the moneybag, Jesus was telling him, ‘Buy what we need for the feast,’ or that he should **give something to the poor.**” (John 13:27–29, ESV)

## The Message of Jesus

- The teaching of Jesus
- The example of Jesus
- What about us?

## *Rebuke of the Pharisees*

“Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you tithe mint and dill and cumin, and have neglected the weightier matters of the law: **justice** and **mercy** and faithfulness. These you ought to have done, without neglecting the others.”  
(Mat. 23:23, ESV)

## The Message of Jesus

- The teaching of Jesus
- The example of Jesus
- What about us?

## *Steps we can take*

1. Treat others fairly according to God's standards, regardless of their background.
2. Never take advantage of someone because they lack the power to stop you.
3. When you see someone being mistreated, consider how you might help that person.
4. Show compassion and give practical help to those who are suffering and in need.

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## Additional Information

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Presented at Chinese for Christ Church in Berkeley, CA

Sermon audio can be found on the church web site at <http://cfcberkeley.org/english/>  
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