REALITY
REMASTERED

No Justice, No Peace
Micah 6:1-8
06.21.2020
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Micah 6:1-8
Listen to what the Lord says:
“Stand up, plead my case before the mountains;
let the hills hear what you have to say.
“Hear, you mountains, the Lord’s accusation;
listen, you everlasting foundations of the earth.
For the Lord has a case against his people;
He is lodging a charge against Israel.
“My people, what have I done to you?
How have I burdened you? Answer me.
I brought you up out of Egypt

and redeemed you from the land of slavery.
I sent Moses to lead you, also Aaron and Miriam.
My people, remember what Balak king of Moab plotted
and what Balaam son of Beor answered.
Remember your journey from Shittim to Gilgal,
that you may know the righteous acts of the Lord."
With what shall I come before the Lord
and bow down before the exalted God?
Shall I come before him with burnt offerings,
with calves a year old?
Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams,
with ten thousand rivers of olive oil?
Shall I offer my firstborn for my transgression,
the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?
He has shown you, O mortal, what is good.
And what does the Lord require of you?
To act justly and to love mercy
and to walk humbly with your God.

"I might say that I see these two struggles as one struggle. There can be no justice without peace. And there can be no peace without justice."

- Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

"The main task of prophetic thinking is to bring the world into divine focus."

- Abraham Heschel

Micah 6:6
With what shall I come before the Lord
and bow down before the exalted God?

Micah 6:1
Stand up, plead my case before the mountains;
let the hills hear what you have to say.

A covenant is the binding together of your will and your affections. There is a legal element of duty, but also a commitment to love each other.

Micah 6:8
He has shown you, O mortal, what is good.
And what does the Lord require of you?

Micah 6:6-7
With what shall I come before the Lord
and bow down before the exalted God?
Shall I come before him with burnt offerings,
with calves a year old?
Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams,
with ten thousand rivers of olive oil?
Shall I offer my firstborn for my transgression,
the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?

“The common denominator of the prophetic critique of sacrifices is not opposition to them as such, but rather an insistence that acts directed to God must never dull our sense of duty to mankind.”

- Rabbi Jonathan Sacks

Amos 5:21-24

I hate, I despise your religious festivals;
your assemblies are a stench to me.
Even though you bring me burnt offerings and grain offerings,
I will not accept them.
Though you bring choice fellowship offerings,
I will have no regard for them.
Away with the noise of your songs!
I will not listen to the music of your harps.
But let justice roll on like a river,
righteousness like a never-failing stream!

Micah 6:8

To act justly and to love mercy
and to walk humbly with your God.

Isaiah 58:2

For day after day they seek me out;
they seem eager to know my ways,
as if they were a nation that does what is right
and has not forsaken the commands of its God.
They ask me for just decisions
and seem eager for God to come near them.

Isaiah 58:6-7

- loose the chains of injustice
- untie the cords of the yoke
- set the oppressed free
- share your food with the hungry
- provide the poor wanderer with shelter
- see the naked and clothe them

James 2:14-17

What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if someone claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save them? Suppose a brother or a sister is without clothes and daily food. If one of you says to them, “Go in peace; keep warm and well fed,” but does nothing about their physical needs, what good is it? In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead.

1 John 3:17-18

If anyone has material possessions and sees a brother or sister in need but has no pity on them, how can the love of God be in that person? Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth.

“If you have a living faith and a real relationship with God, then a heart and life dedicated to social justice is the inevitable sign of [that] real faith.”

- Tim Keller