

What Do You Want?

1 - Be Fair and Just

(Study Guide for the message on Sunday – July 31, 2016)

“Look beneath the surface so you can judge correctly.”

John 7:24 NLT

The prophet **Micah (6:6-8)** answers the people's inquiry to what would please God (I think it may have been more about “appeasing” Him) – verse 8 – *“But He’s already made it plain how to live, what to do, what God is looking for in men and women. It’s quite simple: Do what is fair and just to your neighbor, be compassionate and loyal in your love, and don’t take yourself too seriously – take God seriously”* (MSG).

The preconceived Hebrew ideas of what would bring pleasure to the Lord were all related to “doing”. Shall we worship regularly; sacrifice our futures; shower You with gifts; or do you want us to bring the sacrifice of Abraham to the alter – our first born?

God is not about doing! They, WE, should know this by now. Micah was emphatically emphasizing this point by narrowing all this down to very simple points of God desire. Treat others with loving care, even look for ways to show your love; and give obedience to God alone (not thinking too highly of yourselves). God doesn't want empty ritualistic action. He wants heartfelt obedience.

First, we want to focus on the word JUSTICE.

The Hebrew word is **mishpat (mish-pawt)** – *“acting with proper discretion”*.

Matthew Henry (19th century theologian) said, “We must do right to all, wrong to none; in their bodies, goods and good names.”

1. How does the Lord feel about treating people justly? (**2 Chronicles 19:7**)
2. How does the Lord use Jehoshaphat (**2 Chronicles 19:4-10**) to establish proper protocol for judgment on a corporate level?

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3. What importance does Jesus place on “justice”? (**Matthew 23:23-24**)

4. How has God, Who is unchangeable, acted toward His people that defines His fair and just character? (**Romans 3:23-26**)

5. How do you translate your gift of fair treatment to others in respect to the way the Lord has treated you?

6. What steps can you take to embrace the Spirit of God in His righteous behavior toward others? (**2 Corinthians 5:18-21**)