

“Walk the Micah Road”

Micah 6:1-8 1 Listen to what the Lord is saying: “Stand up and state your case against me. Let the mountains and hills be called to witness your complaints. 2 And now, O mountains, listen to the Lord’s complaint! He has a case against his people. He will bring charges against Israel. 3 “O my people, what have I done to you? What have I done to make you tired of me? Answer me!

4 For I brought you out of Egypt and redeemed you from slavery. I sent Moses, Aaron, and Miriam to help you. 5 Don’t you remember, my people, how King Balak of Moab tried to have you cursed and how Balaam son of Beor blessed you instead? And remember your journey from Acacia Grove to Gilgal, when I, the Lord, did everything I could to teach you about my faithfulness.”

6 What can we bring to the Lord? Should we bring him burnt offerings? Should we bow before God Most High with offerings of yearling calves? 7 Should we offer Him thousands of rams and ten thousand rivers of olive oil? Should we sacrifice our firstborn children to pay for our sins?

8 No, O people, the Lord has told you what is good, and this is what He requires of you: to do what is right, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God.

Micah wrote this book of the Bible to the people of Israel and Judah and to you and me. In seven short chapters Micah paints a true picture of God—the almighty, the powerful God, who absolutely hates sin and absolutely loves the sinner. Micah prophesies God’s judgment on people because of their sin, but he also provides hope as he reminds the people he’s writing to, of God’s love. He reminds them of their opportunity to repent and turn back to a life of true worship and obedience. The Israelites of the northern kingdom were being punished for their sins and Micah could see the same things happening in Judah, Jerusalem, and the Southern Kingdom. Sins like idolatry, baal worship, child sacrifice, and sorcery were becoming rampant among God’s people. On top of this the poor were being oppressed and had no recourse because of corrupt judges. The religious life of the Jews had little depth and Micah draws a sharp contrast between the “popular religion” and the true faith, which involves justice, mercy and walking humbly with Yahweh!

Hence the title of today’s message, “Walk the Micah Road.” Now don’t go out trying to find some street, avenue, road, or highway called the Micah Road. If we are to walk the way or live the way God wants us to, we will be walking the way Micah describes. Since Micah describes the way we are to live. We will call the “way” the Micah Road. My Serendipity Bible boils the theme of the book of Micah down to 2 sentences: “A just and merciful God delivers His people from darkness. The lives of God’s covenant people should reflect God’s standards. [NOTE 1]

What does the Lord require of you? The correct answer is: “To act justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with our God. This verse is not just the theme verse but it is how we are to aspire to live our lives. So let’s take a closer look at Verse 8. The first

righted. What will you do about it? There are things we can do. Take some time to find at least one in the next week. Pray about it. The Lord requires that we do or act justly. That means we need to do something; not everything, but something. As I was writing this sermon I felt overwhelmed by all the injustice. Then I realized I just need to pick one thing. The Lord requires that we do or act, justly. That means do something; not everything, but something. It also means that as much as possible that in our own lives and the way we act we pay attention to what is just. **[NOTE 4 b]**

What does the Lord require of us? What is good? Secondly, the Lord requires us to love mercy. It is not only to show mercy or kindness but to love it, so as to take pleasure and delight in it. This requirement means we need to love being merciful and to love being kind and compassionate in all situations. It means we don't think of ourselves but put others first. It means we pay attention to the needs of others. What does this look like?

Well, it means that we joyfully choose to help our children with their homework or your best friend with her homework even when we're dog tired and still have lots to do before tomorrow comes. It looks like putting your car in park while stopped at a stop light and getting out of your car and quietly picking up the trash that the driver in front of you just threw out the window without uttering a word or making any gestures toward that driver. Wow! That's a tough one, huh? I think loving mercy and kindness is being willing to patiently forgive your spouse or your best friend even when he or she may not deserve it, and you are terribly hurt by their actions. I think loving mercy looks like giving the "to go" meal you just purchased for yourself, to the homeless person you encounter on the street—without hesitation, knowing it is the right thing to do.

The Hebrew word translated here as mercy is a difficult word to render into English. It is the faithful, loyal love, mercy and grace that binds a man to his Lord and to his neighbor or friend. Take some time this week to think about what it looks like for you to "love mercy." Would someone looking at your life from the outside say he/she loves mercy? **[NOTE 4 c]**

The third thing that the Lord requires of us is to "walk humbly with our God. To "walk humbly" is simply to live by faith, for faith is the antithesis of pride. Pride alone insists on taking first place but faith seeks to give God first place. Humility is that virtue required of those who are faithful followers of our Lord. Walking humbly with our God means giving the control of our lives over to Him – willingly. Jesus lived out for us the perfect example when He said, "Father, not my will, but Yours be done." It looks like giving up your right to make decisions based on what seems natural for you to do and others to tell you that you are entitled to do, trading that in for what God wants you to do. In a world where pride and self-sufficiency reign, we are to walk away from that and walk humbly with our God.

When we think of what the Lord requires of us, it occurs to me that our god is more interested in our obedience than anything else. Jesus said, "Seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness ..." not "seek first the North American way of life and all

thing that umps out at me is that there is nothing passive about this verse. It is filled with powerful action words. Words like require, do or act justice, love mercy, walk humbly! They imply meaningful action! **[NOTE 2]**

God has shown all of us what He requires. “What! What did God show me? I don’t see anything?!” No God didn’t write it in the sky, it’s not on a movie screen, it’s ...in here! (hold up the Bible). In the Bible God shows us what is required. The word “require” is a non-negotiable kind of word. In college there are requirements for your major. These are classes that have to be passed for you to receive your degree. For high school there are certain requirements that you have to fulfill in order to graduate. There are classes that have to be passed to get your diploma. The requirements are things that must be done, the minimum that must be accomplished to receive the prize, the certificate, the diploma, the badge, recognition, ...salvation. Yes, there are requirements for salvation. You must turn from your sins and turn to God. You must receive Jesus Christ into your heart and love Him as your Lord and your Savior! Those are the requirements for salvation. Micah 6:8 tells us that God has shown us what the Lord requires of us. Here God is communicating an expectation; it is what He calls us to do. Think of it as our marching orders from the Lord by the power of the Holy Spirit. Noting God requires us to do is related to acquiring more stuff, indulging in more creature comforts, pampering ourselves, or thinking about what we are entitled to. That’s what our culture tells us, not what God tells us. **[NOTE 3]**

So what are God marching orders? What does the Lord require of us? No listen close, this is what God requires: First we are required to do or act justly. That means we behave in ways that are right and bring justice to situations we find ourselves in, to help right the wrongs of the world. For us it would be something wonderful for us to just make the time to consider the question: “What things in the world, in our country, in our community, in our own homes that are simply not right—not as God would have them be? Where do you see injustice? **[NOTE 4a]**

Global poverty, lack of food. It is estimated that 23 children die every minute from starvation in our world. That is staggering. I got my calculator out and in just the hour that we are here in church, 1,380 children will die of starvation. There is a lack of clean drinking water. Over 10 million people die every year from diseases brought on by unclean water. Human slavery is still rampant in our world. Because we live in the USA a country that abolished slavery we don’t see it by children and women all around the world are being sold into slavery and very often that is into slavery for sexual purposes. Human trafficking is the third most lucrative trade in the world right behind drugs and weapons.

Another injustice is bullying. “Experts” say it is reaching epidemic proportions! They say that 30%, nearly a third of children in schools are involved in bullying either as the bully or the victim. Another injustice is the fact that one in six children in the world never get the opportunity to go to school.

There is homelessness, AIDS, racial and ethnic prejudice ... there are many situations occurring in our world today where justice is needed—wrongs need to be

its benefits and comforts.” Jesus said that the ones that obey His commands are the ones that love Him!

Zach Hunter obeyed God As a 12-year-old student, he learned about human slavery. Zach sensed God calling him to bring change so he began to campaign to free the slaves. In less than three years he started to gain international attention, wrote a powerful book for youth called *Be The Change*, and raised thousands of dollars to free child slaves around the world. Austen Gutwein obeyed God. At age 9 Austin learned that children in any places around the world were becoming orphans because their parents were dying of AIDS. Austin said he felt God calling Him to do something about it. So he shot free throws on World AIDS day in 2004 and collected pledges for each of his free throws. In one day, Austin raised almost \$3,000. From that year forward, thousands of people have joined him in a basketball shoot-a-thon called Hoops for Hope. Back in 2009 he raised over \$150,000 and until 2020 partnered with World Vision building clinics and schools and more for AIDS orphans.

What is it that captures your heart? What injustice in the world, in your state, in your community, grabs your attention? What ignites that deep sense of wrong and injustice in your heart? Likely God’s Spirit is stirring within you. You need to obey. Get involved in being the change you want to see in the world.

The big danger here is to think we can only bring change if we do something BIG. Mother Teresa said, “We can do no great things ... only small things with great love.” We change the world one life at a time and one action at a time ... and all of our actions count! Do something. We can NOT do it all, but we can do something!

[NOTE 5] There are five things we ought to think about if we want to be Micah Road walkers: **(5a)** believe God put you here on earth for a purpose and He wants to use you. **(5b)** recognize that EVERYTHING you do matters! – every kind word, every approving look, smile, every helping hand, every penny sacrificed in love—it all matters. **(5c)** Take personal responsibility. Never think, “It’s not my job” or “I can’t do anything about that” or “now just isn’t the right time.” Let me tell you something. The perfect time, never comes around. **(5d)** The beginning of change is awareness. Become informed. Know what is going on in the world beyond your own front door. **(5e)** In order for things to change, you have to change. We can’t change others. We can only change ourselves ... and when we change, when we do justice, love mercy and walk humbly with our God, THAT CHANGES EVERYTHING!

[NOTE 6] Did you know that you can’t be a movement if you are standing still? Think about it. If we are supposed to “Become disciple-makers in the power of the Holy Spirit by standing on the Word, Walking in love, and resting in the arms of Jesus” (Our mission as Doster Community Church!) we can NOT stay still?!! People of God, church family, are we willing to walk the Micah Road? Stand up if you are willing to walk the Micah road! By prayer and obedience—just doing what God calls us to do, NO what God requires of us—we can be part of the movement of God to bring a revival to our world. Are you willing to walk the Micah Road? Then do it! What are you going to do today? What are you going to do this week? What is God stirring in your heart?

Let us go from this place and walk the Micah road by acting justly, loving mercy, acting kindly, and walking humbly with our God! Let's pray ... AMEN

Sermon Notes for "Walk the Micah Road" based on Micah 6:1-8
Given at Doster Community Church July 12, 2026

- I. The lives of God's people (Jesus followers), should reflect His standards.
- II. Micah 6:8 contains powerful action words: do or act justly, love mercy, walk humbly. They imply meaningful action.
- III. Requirements for salvation: repentance, receive Jesus as Lord and Savior. Jesus said, "If you love me you will obey my commands." His specific commands are Love God, love your neighbor, and go make disciples.
- IV. God's Marching Orders:
 - a. Do or act justly
 - b. Love mercy (not only to show mercy but love it)
 - c. Walk humbly with our God (live by faith)
- V. We can NOT do everything but we can do something! To be a Micah Road walker we must:
 - a. Believe God put you here on earth for a purpose
 - b. Everything we do matters
 - c. Take personal responsibility (never think "that's not my job")
 - d. The beginning of change is awareness
 - e. In order for things to change, YOU have to change.
- VI. Do Something! Walk the Micah Road and do justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with Your God. Write down something you will do today.