

CASE #0693_{BC} GOD v. HIS PEOPLE

Court is now in session:

Prosecution:

Micah 6:1-5, Numbers 22-25

There is a **solid case** against you.
You have forgotten your **salvation** and **freedom**.
Don't blame **God** for your **own mistakes**.

Defendants:

Micah 6:6-8

You are an **unfair** God!
We can't possibly **please you**.

Prosecution:

Micah 6:9-16

You are dishonest in **business**, you are **violent**,
you are **liars**, and your **religion** is a sham.

Defendants:

Micah 7:1-6

Don't blame us...our **government**, **neighborhoods**,
and **homes** are all messed up.

VERDICT:

Micah 7:7-20

- ❶ Start with a **personal commitment**, regardless of the **mess**.
- ❷ The Judge delights in **mercy**, **grace**, and **forgiveness**.

What the Judge requires:

Micah 6:8, Matthew 11:29, 18:21-35, Jonah 4:1-3, Philippians 2:1-18, Luke 6:32-36,
Mark 10:35-45, 12:28-34, Romans 12:3-21, James 4:4-10

Justice = To use our **power** in a **fair** and **just** way.

Mercy = **Love** to be **loving**, especially to the hard to **love**.

Faithfulness = A **consistent**, **unwavering**, firm belief.

Humility = A proper **view** of **self**.

Growth Group Homework

For the week of April 22, 2012

QUICK OVERVIEW

Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching, was there anything that particularly caught your attention, challenged or confused you?

MY STORY

1. When you hear the word humility, what are the first few thoughts that come to mind? How did this weekend reinforce or change your definition?

2. This weekend we heard how the people of Israel weren't using their power and influence to bring about justice and care for those in need. Take a moment and think about a few people that have had a positive influence in your life. What was it about them that caused this influence?

DIGGING DEEPER

This weekend's teaching gave us four great applications of what God (the Judge) requires. Our Digging Deeper questions this week are going to focus on two of those four – Justice and Humility.

1. This weekend we heard that to bring about justice we need to use our power and influence in a fair and just way. Chances are God has given you more ways to have influence than you realize. A passage of Scripture that gives us numerous examples of actions and gifts that influence people is Romans 12:3-16. As you read the passage, make a list of the behaviors and/or actions of influence it mentions.

Romans 12:3-16

For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the measure of faith God has given you. [4] Just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, [5] so in Christ we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. [6] We have different gifts, according to the grace given us. If a man's gift is prophesying, let him

use it in proportion to his faith. [7] If it is serving, let him serve; if it is teaching, let him teach; [8] if it is encouraging, let him encourage; if it is contributing to the needs of others, let him give generously; if it is leadership, let him govern diligently; if it is showing mercy, let him do it cheerfully.

[9] Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good. [10] Be devoted to one another in brotherly love. Honor one another above yourselves. [11] Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord. [12] Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. [13] Share with God's people who are in need. Practice hospitality.

[14] Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse. [15] Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn. [16] Live in harmony with one another. Do not be proud, but be willing to associate with people of low position. Do not be conceited. [NIV]

Looking back at the list above, can you think of any examples of someone influencing or encouraging you by putting one of these into action?

As you look at your list, are there any actions or gifts catching your attention that you'd like to put into action more regularly at home, work, school, etc.?

2. Humility is a word that is often misunderstood. People confuse it with humiliation and even with low self-esteem. Yet, what we heard this weekend is that humility is a proper view of self based on how God made us and views us. How do the following verses help us gain an accurate view of ourselves and what it means to be humble?

Genesis 1:27

*So God created man in his own image,
in the image of God he created him;
male and female he created them. [NIV]*

Romans 3:23

for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, [NIV]

John 3:16

"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. [NIV]

Ephesians 2:8-10

For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith--and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God-- [9] not by works, so that no one can boast. [10] For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do. [NIV]

Can you think of ways a healthy view of humility might be skewed if you left out one of these verses? If so, explain.

3. Humility in action aligns us to powerfully serve as Christ served us (Philippians 2:5-11). It also sets us up for spiritual and personal growth. How do the following verses reinforce the benefits of humility and growth?

Philippians 2:5-11

Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus:

[6] Who, being in very nature God,
did not consider equality with God something to be grasped,
[7] but made himself nothing,
taking the very nature of a servant,
being made in human likeness.
[8] And being found in appearance as a man,
he humbled himself
and became obedient to death--
even death on a cross!
[9] Therefore God exalted him to the highest place
and gave him the name that is above every name,
[10] that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow,
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,
[11] and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father. [NIV]

Deuteronomy 8:2-3

Remember how the Lord your God led you all the way in the desert these forty years, to humble you and to test you in order to know what was in your heart, whether or not you would keep his commands. [3] He humbled you, causing you to hunger and then feeding you with manna, which neither you nor your fathers had known, to teach you that man does not live on bread alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of the Lord. [NIV]

Deuteronomy 8:16

He gave you manna to eat in the desert, something your fathers had never known, to humble and to test you so that in the end it might go well with you. [NIV]

Colossians 2:18

Do not let anyone who delights in false humility and the worship of angels disqualify you for the prize. Such a person goes into great detail about what he has seen, and his unspiritual mind puffs him up with idle notions. [NIV]

James 3:13

Who is wise and understanding among you? Let him show it by his good life, by deeds done in the humility that comes from wisdom. [NIV] James 3:13

TAKING IT HOME

Looking back at the four points at the end of this week's teaching, which one caught your attention the most and why?

Prayer Requests:

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