

The “Be” Attitude

If you have ever had a moment where you said to yourself, “okay God, what exactly do you want from me?” the scriptures read to us today hold the answer. Did you hear it? There is a certain way that God wants us to live; I call it the “be” attitude. The reading in Micah shows how God was with Israel even when they didn’t know that they were in danger. He was with them because He loved them and was caring for them. How many of you are familiar with the story of Balaam and Balak? This story is found in the book of Numbers chapters 22 through 24. Basically the nation of Israel was moving out of Egypt toward the Promised Land when the King of Moab, a guy named Balak, noticed their movement. Balak, was afraid of the power of Israel and so he hired a professional prophet named Balaam, to curse them so that his army could destroy them. God protected Israel and instead of cursing Israel, Balaam was forced to bless them. Israel did not even know they were in trouble. God through the prophet Micah is reminding them of His faithful protection and love and then in verse 8 tells them exactly what he wants in return.

Micah 6:1-8 8 He has showed you, O man, 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. (NIV)**

So now skip ahead 1,000 years to the time of Jesus. In the Gospel reading today, Jesus is teaching the disciples and the people nearby about the positive effects of trusting in God. It’s interesting to compare the three categories of action God requires in Micah with the Beatitudes as we know them today. Those categories of action are:

1. acting justly.
2. Loving mercy.
3. Walking humbly with God.

Jesus is teaching the crowds that they will be happy and fulfilled or “blessed” during the worst times of their lives if they trust in God. Because God will not forsake them, and even though they may not be aware of it as they are going through their trial. The people who are listening to Jesus don’t even know that God had already made it possible through Jesus Christ to receive all of the blessings he outlines in the passage. It is Jesus who humbles himself to receive the kingdom of heaven, comforts the mourners, is the meek one who inherits

the earth, is filled with righteousness, is always merciful, is the pure hearted one who has seen God, and who will soon be persecuted for his righteousness. If we strive to be like him, we will be all of those things too, and as in the book of Micah, we will be doing what God wants us to do: **To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.**

Matt 5:1-12 **1** Now when he saw the crowds, he went up on a mountainside and sat down. His disciples came to him, **2** and he began to teach them, saying: **3** "Blessed are the poor in spirit, **for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.** **4** Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. **5** Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth. **6** Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled. **7**

Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy. **8**
 Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God. **9** Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called sons of God. **10**
 Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, **for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.** **11** "Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. **12** Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you. (NIV)

Act Justly	Love Mercy	Walk humbly with God
H and T for righteousness	Merciful	Poor in spirit
Pure in Heart	Peacemakers	Mourn
Meek not weak		Persecuted for righteousness
		Insult, accused falsely