

**“VOICES – THE MINOR PROPHETS OF THE OLD TESTAMENT”**  
**THE MICAH MANDATE – “PART 3 – LOVE MERCY”** **11.11.18**

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**MICAH’S PURPOSE:** *“But as for me, I am filled with power—with the Spirit of the LORD. I am filled with justice and strength to boldly declare Israel’s sin and rebellion.”* MICAH 3:8

**MICAH’S MESSAGE:** *“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 6:8

- We don’t have to guess at what God **REQUIRES**
- We don’t have to guess at what’s **GOOD**

1. **Do RIGHT** = Biblical Justice

- Biblical justice is about God’s people **DOING** what is right as determined by God

2. **Love MERCY** – “loving kindness” (NRSV, ESV)

3. **Walk HUMBLY**

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**“What we believe shapes our behavior;  
How we behave demonstrates our beliefs.”**

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**“... to love MERCY”**

- Hebrew word “Hesed” = used 246 times in 239 verses
- English words: “grace,” “mercy,” “love,” “steadfast love,” “loyal love,” “faithful love,” and “covenant faithfulness”
- Hesed is not an emotion, mood, or feeling
- “Hesed reflects the loyal love that people committed to the God of the Bible should have for one another.” Dr. Sandra Richter, *Epic of Eden*”

1. Hesed is a fundamental **ATTRIBUTE** in the Lord’s self-description  
*“The Lord passed in front of Moses, calling out, ‘Yahweh! The Lord! The God of compassion and mercy! I am slow to anger and filled with unfailing love and faithfulness. I lavish unfailing love to a thousand generations. I forgive iniquity, rebellion, and sin.”*  
EXODUS 34:6-7

*“Give thanks to the Lord...His faithful love endures forever.”*  
PSALM 136 (40 times in the Old Testament)

[All Scripture references from the New Living Translation unless otherwise noted]

- Hesed describes **WHO** God is and **WHAT** God does
  - The **FULLNESS** of God’s Hesed is seen in the cross
2. Hesed should be a fundamental **ATTRIBUTE** of God’s people  
*“Do to others whatever you would like them to do to you. This is the essence of all that is taught in the law and the prophets.”*  
MATTHEW 7:12
- Hesed is something God **EXPECTS** from His people  
*“I have given you an example to follow. Do as I have done to you.”* JOHN 13:15
  - Hesed is something God’s people **DO** to/for one another and others [even when they don’t deserve it]  
*“Don’t just pretend to love other. Really love them...”* ROMANS 12:9-19
  - Hesed is something that **FLOWS** from a transformed life  
*“If someone says, ‘I love God,’ but hates a fellow believer, that person is a liar; for if we don’t love people we can see, how can we love God, whom we cannot see?”* 1 JOHN 4:20
  - Hesed is something we are to **DELIGHT** in  
*“...love mercy...”* MICAH 6:8  
*“Let love be your highest goal!”* 1 CORINTHIANS 14:1

**THE PARABLE OF THE GOOD SAMARITAN [LUKE 10:25-37]**

*“One day an expert in religious law stood up to test Jesus by asking him this question: ‘Teacher, what should I do to inherit eternal life?’ Jesus replied, ‘What does the law of Moses say? How do you read it?’ The man answered, ‘You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, all your strength, and all your mind.’ And, ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ ‘Right!’ Jesus told him. ‘Do this and you will live!’ The man wanted to justify his actions, so he asked Jesus, ‘And who is my neighbor?’ ...The man replied, ‘The one who showed him mercy.’ Then Jesus said, “Yes, now go and do the same.”*

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*“Micah 6:8...is a call for the natural consequences of truly forgiven men and women to demonstrate the reality of their faith by living it out in the marketplace.”*

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