
And Justice for All Pt. 1

**Ivy Baptist Church Bible Study
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Goals of this series:

- To develop clear definitions of justice from a Biblical sense
- To gain a clear understanding of the responsibility of EVERY believer when it comes to justice
- To identify opportunities where believers (and churches) can bring awareness and (hopefully) change in areas where justice is needed

Opening Thoughts:

- America has always had difficulty with liberty and justice for all
- Even though America was founded on Christian values, American justice and biblical justice have not always been the same

What is the definition of Justice?

- **Justice: The quality of being just, impartial or fair (Webster's Dictionary)**

Today's Study: What the Lord REQUIRES of you! Micah 6:8 (NIV)

Overview: The Book of Micah:

- Micah was a prophet around the 8th century BC
- Micah was a prophet around the same time as Isaiah, Hosea and Amos
- The overall theme of Micah is God's justice vs the injustices of the Israelite leaders

Micah 6:8:

He has shown you, O mortal, 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.

Micah 6:8: What the Lord REQUIRES of Us (Believers):

- **#1: Act Justly**
- Hebrew word for just is "mishpat"
- Focuses on legal fairness, protection of the vulnerable and making things right

- **#2: Love Mercy**
- Hebrew word for mercy is "Hesed"
- Both mean "loving-kindness." Compassion and loyalty toward others

- **#3: Walk humbly with our God**
- Key Hebrew words in this phrase is "halak and sana"
- This is linked to modesty and reverence to God

Similarities between American vs. Biblical Justice:

- Both emphasize fairness and impartiality
- Both emphasize a legal element to justice

Differences between American vs. Biblical Justice:

- American justice is more legally focused
- Biblical justice includes a legal, moral and ethical duty, especially to those less fortunate (poor)

Key Thoughts on Biblical Justice:

- Biblical justice is rooted in love and righteousness
- To be in the right standing with God means we desire that God's people are treated fairly!

Conclusion on Micah 6:8:

- Believers are REQUIRED to treat everyone the same...WITH LOVE
- Believers are REQUIRED to extend LOVING-KINDNESS to EVERYONE. Not just the people we like or agree with
- Believers are REQUIRED to live a life of modesty and humility