

Humility

There was a problem with the Old Law, but that problem wasn't in the Law itself. Yes, the sacrifice of bulls and goats could not take away sin and yes no one could keep the perfectly and therefore was condemned by it. But that isn't the point of this discussion. The point is, the Law was perfect for its intended purpose. The problems that came with the Law were not caused by the Law, they were caused by the people's response to the Law. Note what Jesus says in...

Matt 5:21-23

1

21 "You have heard that the ancients were told, 'YOU SHALL NOT COMMIT MURDER' and 'Whoever commits murder shall be liable to the court.' **22** But I say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother shall be guilty before the court; and whoever says to his brother, 'You good-for-nothing,' shall be guilty before the Supreme Court; and whoever says, 'You fool,' shall be guilty enough to go into the fiery hell.

Christ tells them that while the Law said to not murder, the impact of the statement should have been understood that to harbor the anger and maliciousness in the heart that leads to murder was where the sin began. Keep that thought in mind and note...

Mic 6:8

2

8 He has told you, O man, what is good; And what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, to love kindness, And to walk humbly with your God?

3 In this, our text passage for this lesson we see Micah making a point to the Israelites. Where the Israelites looked at the Law and saw the physical attributes of it, the things they could or could not do, they seemed to have missed what God had intended for it to be to them. Isn't that what we see here in Micah?

This is the essence of the law, what they have been told is that it is...

4

“Good”

But Micah encompasses the spiritual side of the Law as well...

5

“Walk humbly with Your God”

The ten commandments and the other parts of the Law are the “Good” part of this verse. The “walk humbly” is the spiritual side. The law was spiritual, intended to touch the heart, the thoughts, the intents, the emotions, the words, the actions of their everyday lives; but especially, God demanded their hearts.

Heb 3:7-11

6

7 Therefore, just as the Holy Spirit says, "TODAY IF YOU HEAR HIS VOICE, **8** DO NOT HARDEN YOUR HEARTS AS WHEN THEY PROVOKED ME, AS IN THE DAY OF TRIAL IN THE WILDERNESS, **9** WHERE YOUR FATHERS TRIED Me BY TESTING Me, AND SAW MY WORKS FOR FORTY YEARS. **10** "THEREFORE I WAS

ANGRY WITH THIS GENERATION, AND SAID, 'THEY ALWAYS GO ASTRAY IN THEIR HEART, AND THEY DID NOT KNOW MY WAYS'; **11** AS I SWORE IN MY WRATH, 'THEY SHALL NOT ENTER MY REST.'

The Hebrew writer says it very plainly, they went astray in their hearts.

1 Peter 3:3-4

7

3 Your adornment must not be merely external —braiding the hair, and wearing gold jewelry, or putting on dresses; **4** but let it be the hidden person of the heart, with the imperishable quality of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is precious in the sight of God.

In his discussion on how women are to present themselves Peter offers a principle that all should apply in their lives...

8 **4** but let it be the hidden person of the heart, with the imperishable quality of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is precious in the sight of God.

This is the principle that Micah was talking about...

9

“And to walk humbly with your God”

Rom 10:4

9A

4 For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes.

In Christ we meet the requirements of the law...

10

- A) What He has done for us
- B) What He works in us
- C) Faithful response to Him

Christ causes the faithful to conform to the law of God. He makes us, by his Spirit, to be glorified, through His glory, to find the perfection of salvation through obedience to that Law which we could not effect for ourselves. Man is weak in the flesh, but when Christ strengthens us, the righteousness of the law can be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.

Only through faith in Christ can a man learn to do righteously, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with God; and only by the power of the Holy Spirit cleansing us, can these three requirements be fulfilled.

What I want to look at in this lesson is just the last requirement...

11

“Walk humbly with your God”

There are some thoughts that come to mind with this.

12

- 1) What is the nature of this humility?
- 2) How does this humility show itself?

So then our first point...

13 1) What is the nature of this humility?

Micah says a lot on the subject. Or at least he says everything there is that needs to be said. First, this humility that Micah speaks of belongs to, or maybe a better way to say it is, illustrates, the highest form of man's character. Note what Micah says just preceding his statement to walk humbly with your God...

14 *“And what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, to love kindness”*

Suppose a man has done that, suppose that in both these things he has come up to the divine standard, what then? therein is the problem that so many in the world have. They think that if they can just be good, moral people, then they are doing what God wants, all that He wants. Why, then, do they have to do anything more? If we walk in the light, as God is in the light, and have fellowship with Him, do we still need to walk before God humbly? There are a couple of passages from Galatians...

Gal 5:16

15

16 But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh.

Gal 5:25

25 If we live by the Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit.

Paul points out that walking by the spirit has a direct effect on whether or not we walk by the flesh. He makes the point that if we are to live by the Spirit, that means being moral and just, a good person, then we must walk by the Spirit. When we live by the Spirit and walk by the Spirit then the blood of Christ cleanses us from all sin. Walking by the Spirit is understanding and accepting that we have come into contact with the blood of Christ through faithful obedience...

Eph 2:13

16

13 But now in Christ Jesus you who formerly were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.

Christ gave Himself so that man could have the opportunity to come to God through the shedding of His blood in purity, being forgiven of his sin by the washing of His blood. Forgiveness is the perfect gift that God offers to all who come to Him in faithful obedience.

Rom 6:16-18

17

16 Do you not know that when you present yourselves to someone as slaves for obedience, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin resulting in death, or of obedience resulting in righteousness? **17** But thanks be to God that though you were slaves of sin, you became obedient from the heart to that form of teaching to which you were committed, **18** and having been freed from sin, you became slaves of righteousness.

Obedience to that form of teaching is best defined as faithful obedience. **Rom 10:17** tells us that faith comes from the Word of God, that's teaching. So when we respond to the teaching of the Word, we are responding in faith to that "form of teaching" that Paul is talking about, and that response is manifested in our obedience.

James 4:5-10

18

5 "He jealously desires the Spirit which He has made to dwell in us"? **6** But He gives a greater grace. Therefore it says, "GOD IS OPPOSED TO THE PROUD, BUT GIVES GRACE TO THE HUMBLE." **7** Submit therefore to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. **8** Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded. **9** Be miserable and mourn and weep; let your laughter be turned into mourning and your joy to gloom. **10** Humble yourselves in the presence of the Lord, and He will exalt you.

Here then is the nature of the humility that Micah was talking about. The only way a man can come to God through Christ and be found righteous is to give himself totally and completely to God through his obedience to the Word, humbling himself before the authority of his creator.

19

"Walking humbly with your God"

Means to draw near to God through His Son Christ in faith and obedience. This then brings us to our next point of discussion...

20

2) How does this humility show itself?

We have already begun our discussion on this point in illustrating what it means to have a nature of humility towards God. Now we want to look at what it means to have that nature. Micah addresses these two thoughts in his encouragement to the Israelites. The nature of humility speaks to the attitude that we bring to our relationship with God. It addresses the why we should be faithful. Do we believe in and trust in the Love of God? Do we walk in that Love drawing strength and comfort from it, knowing, with absolute certainty, that He has forgiven us and will treat us with grace and mercy? Do we humble ourselves to that power and that love, giving ourselves to Him utterly? That is the nature of the humility that Micah is talking about.

Micah also talks about how this humility shows itself to both God and the world.

21

8 He has told you, O man, what is good; And what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, to love kindness

How does this humility show itself? Micah says it is to be found in the "Good" that has been told to man by the Lord in His Word. God has given man everything he needs to "walk humbly with Him." It is up to man to choose to do so. That is what Paul is talking about in...

Eph 5:15-17

22

15 Therefore be careful how you walk, not as unwise men but as wise, **16** making the most of your time, because the days are evil. **17** So then do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is.

We choose how we walk. There is a point that I think is important that we need to understand;

23 *There is a vast difference in trying to be humble and being humble*

There are two thoughts that come to mind when talking about being humble. The first we have somewhat already addressed, that is..

24 D) Giving ourselves completely to God

This means removing from ourselves our pride, our agendas, our think-sos, our will, and allowing God's will to guide us in everything we do. The second thought is so closely tied to this that they are difficult to separate. But it tends to be the one that people seem to have the most trouble with.

25 E) Showing our humility to God in our actions to others

The point is that acting humbly, if you have to force yourself to do it isn't what God wants from His children. God wants humility to be a part of His children's character. Christ says this in...

Luke 14:11

26

11 For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted."

Humility must be in the heart, and when it is it will come out spontaneously as the outflow of God's Love in our lives in everything we do. There is a point to be made here...

James 4:6

27

6 But He gives a greater grace. Therefore it says, "GOD IS OPPOSED TO THE PROUD, BUT GIVES GRACE TO THE HUMBLE."

If we don't show humility in our lives and actions to the world then God is opposed to us. If we choose to follow our agendas and will, then we don't...

28

“Walk humbly with God”

We walk humbly with God when we walk in the light of His Word following the example of our Savior Jesus Christ in all that we do and say. I would offer this thought to you; walking humbly means walking in Love, walking in Love means walking in faith, and walking in faith means walking in obedience.

Where are we walking? Is it humbly in love, faith, and obedience to God, or is it in our own way by pride? The crux of the matter is that if it is in our own way, we are doomed. Salvation and reward come only when we walk humbly with God.