

Joyful in Hope – 75 – June 15, 2020
(thoughts and ideas to encourage and challenge)

“Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer.”
Romans 12:12

Act justly
... love mercy
... walk humbly
with your God.

I keep coming back to Micah 6:8 as I wrestle with everything that is going on in our world. This is exactly what our response should be as followers of Christ. This the right thing to do, the right way to act, the right behavior, and the right mindset.

The prophetic statements in the Book of Micah are directed at both the Samaritans and the Jews, both the northern kingdom of Israel, and the southern kingdom of Judah. Everyone is warned in this prophecy to honor God, not only in acts of worship, but more importantly, in all of life. In the way you treat your neighbor, in the way you treat the foreigner, in the way you treat those on the margins of society.

Much of Micah’s indictment against Israel and Judah involves these nations’ injustice toward the lowly—unjust business dealings, robbery, mistreatment of women and children, and a government that lived in luxury off the hard work of its nation’s people.

And so, we need to ask ourselves; Where does the injustice dwell in my own life? Who are the lowly in your life? Do you need a call toward repentance, like the people of Israel and Judah did?

Micah’s impassioned plea for God’s chosen people to repent will cut many of us to the quick. Most of us don’t decide daily to cut people down or find ways to carry out injustice. Instead, we do it out of habit.

Let’s allow the words of Micah to break us out of our apathy about extending justice and kindness to others and press on toward a world that better resembles the harmonious millennial kingdom to come. Let’s determine to live as God desires— “to act justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with our God.”