

Dear Lillian UMC family,

The primary duty of the Old Testament prophet was to confront Israel whenever they forgot their covenant with the Lord and to implore them to return to His ways. Micah was no exception. When he confronted the people over their sin, the people wondered out loud, what exactly did God want from them? Micah responded, "He has told you, O man, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God? (Micah 6:8)

The prophet gave no new doctrine, no new progressive activism to pursue, and no social justice cause to embrace. He made no calls for new programs to address these issues. Micah simply told them "God has already told you what He requires of you all."

Indeed, Deuteronomy 10:12, told them exactly what God "required." If they would follow that one verse, Micah was confident his people would be just, and kind and walk in humility before God. If they would only remember God's words and return to God's ways.

The nation of Israel never had justice, kindness, or humility, because they refused to remember and return. So, was Micah really saying, "just do your best, be a good person, God only requires your good to outweigh your bad." No. God has never been impressed by good deeds generated from a self-sufficient, unrepentant heart.

What does the Lord require from us? Jesus first preached to the Jews, "repent and believe the gospel (Mark1)." Paul preached the same to the gentile Greeks, "God commands all men everywhere to repent." (Acts 17) Repentance (turning from your current direction to God's direction), is the first step in reconciliation with God. Reconciliation is the first step in a relationship that changes us from the enemy of God to the obedient child of God.

What does the Lord require from us? Micah called Israel to remember and return to God and His word. The Holy Spirit calls us to be repentant, reconciled, and in a relationship, through Jesus Christ, obedient to His word. "If you love Me, keep My commandments." (John 14)

See you Sunday,  
Perry Cunningham  
Lay Leader