

Micah 6:1–8

Setting the Scene

- Micah speaks to Judah during a time of spiritual confusion and moral drift
- Worship continues, but justice and mercy have faded
- God doesn't send a warning through symbols or visions here
- He calls a courtroom

A Covenant Lawsuit

- God invites the mountains and hills to listen
- Creation becomes the witness
- This signals seriousness, not drama
- God isn't reacting emotionally, He's responding relationally

God's Question

- "My people, what have I done to you?"
- God asks, not accuses
- The problem isn't God's failure
- It's Israel's forgetfulness

Remembering God's Faithfulness

- God names specific acts, not vague blessings
- Deliverance from Egypt
- Redemption from slavery
- Faithful leadership through Moses, Aaron, and Miriam
- Protection from Balak and Balaam
- Safe passage from Shittim to Gilgal
- Memory is central to faithfulness

Key Insight

- When people forget what God has done, worship becomes anxious
- Fear replaces trust
- Performance replaces relationship

The People's Response

- They don't deny God's goodness
- They panic
- They assume God wants *more*
- Bigger sacrifices
- Higher cost
- Greater loss

Escalating Religious Anxiety

- Burnt offerings

- Thousands of rams
- Rivers of oil
- Even their children
- This reveals fear, not devotion
- They're trying to negotiate instead of listen

God's Clear Answer (Micah 6:8)

- God interrupts the spiral
- He's already made His will known
- Faith isn't a mystery here

What the LORD Requires

- **Act justly**
 - Live rightly with others
 - Refuse exploitation
 - Practice fairness, not favoritism
- **Love mercy**
 - Steadfast love, not occasional kindness
 - Compassion that costs something
 - Grace that reflects God's grace
- **Walk humbly with your God**
 - Ongoing relationship, not control
 - Attentiveness instead of arrogance
 - Trust instead of performance

Wesleyan Connection

- God's grace comes first
- Obedience grows out of relationship
- Holiness shows up in daily life
- Justice, mercy, and humility are fruit, not currency

For Discussion

- Where do you see religious performance replacing faithfulness today?
- Which of the three requirements comes most naturally to you? Which is hardest?
- How does remembering God's past faithfulness reshape present obedience?

Living the Text

- Faith isn't about doing *more* for God
- It's about walking *with* God
- Justice, mercy, and humility aren't extras
- They're the evidence of a life shaped by grace