

# **Sermon Discussion Guide- Week of Feb 4, 2018**

**“World Serious: Mercy Me” Pastor Temple 8:15, 9:30 Pastor Hook 10:55**

## **Micah 6:1-8**

**Listen to what the LORD says:**

**“Stand up, plead my case before the mountains; let the hills hear what you have to say.**

**<sup>2</sup>“Hear, you mountains, the LORD’s accusation; listen, you everlasting foundations of the earth. For the LORD has a case against his people; he is lodging a charge against Israel.**

**<sup>3</sup>“My people, what have I done to you? How have I burdened you? Answer me.**

**<sup>4</sup>I brought you up out of Egypt and redeemed you from the land of slavery. I sent Moses to lead you, also Aaron and Miriam.**

**<sup>5</sup>My people, remember what Balak king of Moab plotted and what Balaam son of Beor answered. Remember your journey from Shittim to Gilgal, that you may know the righteous acts of the LORD.”**

**<sup>6</sup>With what shall I come before the LORD and bow down before the exalted God? Shall I come before him with burnt offerings, with calves a year old?**

**<sup>7</sup>Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams, with ten thousand rivers of olive oil? Shall I offer my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?**

**<sup>8</sup>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.**

**Leader’s Tip:** Please discuss the “Getting Started” questions below with the group and then read aloud the scriptures in the left margin. As you go through the discussion questions below, know that it is ok to skip questions in order to manage the time for discussions in each section.

### **Getting Started (10-15 min)**

- Anything from this past week in regard to the witness or application points from the last meeting that you would like to share?
- When, if ever, have you ever tried bribing your parents for a favor?

### **Review the Sermon (20 min)**

- If you were tasked to give a one-minute summary of the sermon message this week, what would you say?
- The prophet Micah lived at a time when bribery and corruption was present with the priests, the business people and the judges. What do you think the prophet Micah meant in verse 8 by “do justice” or “act justly?”
- Pastor Andrew said that justice without mercy is tyranny or legalism and that mercy without justice is anarchy. Do you agree that mercy and justice should not be separated and that both are necessary? How so?
- Babe Didrikson Zaharias removed herself from a golf tournament because she (and only she) noticed that she had hit the wrong ball out of the rough. How common is that level of honesty and integrity in today’s world?
- The quotes in the margin by holocaust survivor Viktor Frankl and Hubert Humphrey would suggest that no matter the circumstances, individuals and governments can exercise their right to choose in a moral way. Do you agree?
- How do you see Micah’s charge to “love mercy” present in Humphrey’s standards of judgement of government?
- Why does really walking with God, require us to walk humbly? (see quotes & Psalm in margin)

**“Everything can be taken from a man but one thing: the last of the human freedoms—to choose one’s attitude in any given set of circumstances, to choose one’s own way.”**

**-Viktor E. Frankl**

**“The moral test of government is how it treats those who are in the dawn of life, the children; those who are in the twilight of life, the aged; and those in the shadows of life, the sick, the needy and the handicapped.”**

**-Hubert Humphrey**

**“I am a little servant of an illustrious master.”**

**-Hudson Taylor**

**“Be humble or you’ll stumble.”**

**-Dwight L. Moody**

**“what is mankind that you are mindful of them, human beings that you care for them?”**

**Psalm 8:4**

**Note from Pastor Dan:**

**Starting in the season of lent (after Ash Wednesday on Feb 14<sup>th</sup>) please begin bringing your Bibles with you as there will be other scriptures to reference that will not fit on the page.**

## **Personalize the Sermon (20 min)**

- What were points of encouragement or challenge for you personally in the sermon?
- It is one thing to know right from wrong and to choose the wrong, and another to not have an awareness of what is right or wrong in a given situation. In the novel *Of Mice and Men*, John Steinbeck wrote a negative judgement on the morality of world in the quote “There’s nothing wrong anymore.” What is your sense of awareness of right and wrong in today’s world?
- When you hear the word “justice” do you think of law and order and punishment or do you think of standing up for others? How do the two different perspectives connect?

## **Apply the Sermon (15 min)**

- What areas of fairness in your life or environment do you feel called to address personally this week?
- In what ways can we choose to be kind and not grouchy this week?
- How might we keep the nature of our “I-Thou” relationship with the Lord present in our minds this week in in our daily living? How about an “I-Thou” relationship with other people, as opposed to a utilitarian “I-It” relationship?

## **Witness & Prayer Concerns From The Group, (15 min)**

- When we walk humbly with God, we find that we need to care about the people who God cares about. When you think about trying to live out verse 8 this week, is there a person that God brings to mind for you to be in prayer for or to reach out to? Who?
- What prayer concerns or joys would you share with your group this week?