

Micah's Challenge
Smoke Rise Baptist Church
Stone Mountain, Georgia

Our theme for the 2007/2008 church year is taken from Micah 6:8. During this period we will be focusing our attention in Sunday School and worship on justice, kindness, and humility and in discerning how God is calling us to respond to Micah's challenge in our time.

Children, youth, and adults will study the same lesson three times during the year:

- September 30 Doing Justice
- January 13 Love Kindness
- March 30 Walking Humbly with God

Together we will put Micah's Challenge into action in many ways during the year.

- Oct. 7 World Communion Sunday – Food collection for the Coops
- Oct. 28 World Hunger Sunday – Offering for the Baptist World Alliance

Who was Micah?

During the 8th century BCE, Micah was a younger contemporary of the more famous Isaiah of Jerusalem. He came from the common people in the village of Moresheth, in the rural region southwest of the capital city. With this rural heritage, he was especially critical of the corruption and arrogance in the seats of power and the injustice that flowed from them to the ordinary people.

What was his Message?

The book of Micah, while relatively brief, is a penetrating summary of prophetic judgment on the excesses, distortions, and misdirection of religion in the eighth century before Christ. You may recognize what is perhaps his best known prophetic statement:

*With what shall I come before the Lord, and bow myself before God on high?
Shall I come before him with burnt offerings, with calves a year old? Will the
Lord be pleased with thousands of rams, with ten thousands of rivers of oil?
Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of
my soul?*

*He has told you, O mortal, 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 6:6-8)*

What does it mean for us?

Our world is a complex one with many conflicting issues, as was his. Our world is one filled with many kinds of actual and potential brokenness, as was his. The words of a prophet like Micah are not only an indication of how God spoke through a faithful servant in the eighth century BCE to a world of conflicting values, needs, and desires, but also an invitation to see and hear how God always speaks through faithful servants to a world of any age that is characterized by injustice (“do justice”), hostility and violence (“love kindness”), and arrogance (“walk humbly with your God”).

It is good for us to hear this call as well; and, maybe even more importantly, to be Micah’s voice in our time.

Micah’s Challenge:

Where do we see injustice in our community and in our world?

How is God calling us to respond?

Who needs a word or an act of kindness that brings with it the presence of Christ?

How will “walking humbly” with God change us, our families, and our church?