Being A Person Of Peace

General description of the prophetical books:

* God’s Messengers
* Emphasis On Covenant Relationship
* Addressing Sin And Warning Of Judgment
* Promising Hope And Renewal
* Pointing To Jesus
* Revealing God’s Character

Why these books matter:

* Understanding God’s heart and plan
* Learning from Israel’s mistakes
* Seeing Jesus

Micah 6:6-8 (ESV)

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 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?

God does not want a specific type of offering… God wants a specific type of person

God does not only want our sacrifices, but He wants every aspect of our lives

If we are going to be people of peace, we surrender it all to God

What God Requires Of Us…

1. To Do Justice

The word justice is the Hebrew word mishpat

Exodus 23:6 (ESV)

You shall not pervert the justice due to your poor in his lawsuit.

Deuteronomy 24:17 (ESV)

You shall not pervert the justice due to the sojourner or to the fatherless, or take a widow’s garment in pledge.

1 Samuel 8:3 (ESV)

Yet his sons did not walk in his ways but turned aside after gain. They took bribes and perverted justice.

Isaiah 1:17 (ESV)

Learn to do good; seek justice, correct oppression; bring justice to the fatherless, plead the widow’s cause.

DO JUSTICE! Be just in your dealings with everyone, whoever they are

Jesus highlights the same message:

Matthew 23:23 (ESV)

Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you tithe mint and dill and cumin and have neglected the weightier matters of the law: justice and mercy and faithfulness. These you ought to have done, without neglecting the others.

Jesus highlights justice in His actions

Healing the leper – Matthew 8

Healing Jarius’ daughter and the woman with issue of bleeding – Mark 9

The woman caught in adultery – John 8

2. To Love Kindness

To show a compassionate warm-heartedness toward one another

Ephesians 4:32 (ESV)

Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.

Proverbs 11:17 (ESV)

A man who is kind benefits himself, but a cruel man hurts himself.

Be kind toward the least of these

Matthew 25:35-40 (ESV)

For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me. Then the righteous will answer him, saying, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? And when did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? And when did we see you sick or in prison and visit you?’ And the King will answer them, ‘Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me.’

Even towards our enemies

Luke 6:35-36 (ESV)

But love your enemies, and do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return, and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High, for he is kind to the ungrateful and the evil. Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful.

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace: where there is hatred, let me sow love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope’ where there is darkness, light; where there is sadness, joy. O divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled as to console, to be understood as to understand, to be loved as to love. For it is in giving that we receive, it is in pardoning that we are pardoned, and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life. Amen – Prayer of St. Francis

3. To Walk Humbly With Our God

What does it mean to walk humbly with our God?

It means to surrender

Talk to God

Hebrews 4:14-16 (ESV)

Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

1 Thessalonians 5:17 (ESV)

Pray without ceasing.

Listen to God

James 1:21 (ESV)

Therefore put away all filthiness and rampant wickedness and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls.

1 Peter 2:2 (ESV)

Like newborn infants, long for the pure spiritual milk, that by it you may grow up into salvation –

Humbly submit to God’s will

James 4:7 (ESV)

Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.

Recognize your need for a Savior, Jesus!

1 John 1:7-9 (ESV)

But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Micah 7:18-20 (ESV)

Who is a God like you, pardoning iniquity and passing over transgression for the remnant of his inheritance? He does not retain his anger forever, because he delights in steadfast love. He will again have compassion on us; he will tread our iniquities underfoot. You will cast all our sins into the depths of the sea. You will show faithfulness to Jacob and steadfast love to Abraham, as you have sworn to our fathers from the days of old.