

Challenging Chapters of the Bible

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Micah 6

- **1 Listen to what the Lord is saying: “Stand up and state your case against me. Let the mountains and hills be called to witness your complaints. 2 And now, O mountains, listen to the Lord’s complaint! He has a case against his people. He will bring charges against Israel. 3 “O my people, what have I done to you? What have I done to make you tired of me? Answer me! 4 For I brought you out of Egypt and redeemed you from slavery. I sent Moses, Aaron, and Miriam to help you. 5 Don’t you remember, my people, how King Balak of Moab tried to have you cursed and how Balaam son of Beor blessed you instead? And remember your journey from Acacia Grove to Gilgal, when I, the Lord, did everything I could to teach you about my faithfulness.”**

Micah 6

- **6** What can we bring to the Lord? Should we bring him burnt offerings? Should we bow before God Most High with offerings of yearling calves? **7** Should we offer him thousands of rams and ten thousand rivers of olive oil? Should we sacrifice our firstborn children to pay for our sins? **8** No, O people, the Lord has told you what is good, and this is what he requires of you: to do what is right, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God. Fear the Lord if you are wise! His voice calls to everyone in Jerusalem: “The armies of destruction are coming; the Lord is sending them. **10** What shall I say about the homes of the wicked filled with treasures gained by cheating? What about the disgusting practice of measuring out grain with dishonest measures?

Micah 6

- **11 How can I tolerate your merchants who use dishonest scales and weights? 12 The rich among you have become wealthy through extortion and violence. Your citizens are so used to lying that their tongues can no longer tell the truth. 13 “Therefore, I will wound you! I will bring you to ruin for all your sins. 14 You will eat but never have enough. Your hunger pangs and emptiness will remain. And though you try to save your money, it will come to nothing in the end. You will save a little, but I will give it to those who conquer you. 15 You will plant crops but not harvest them. You will press your olives but not get enough oil to anoint yourselves. You will trample the grapes but get no juice to make your wine. 16 You keep only the laws of evil King Omri; you follow only the example of wicked King Ahab! Therefore, I will make an example of you, bringing you to complete ruin. You will be treated with contempt, mocked by all who see you.**

**God's question to Israel could be
asked of us at times**

**What have I done to make you
tired of me?**

What have I done to make you tired of me?

- What seems like an impossibility is asserted by God against His people.**
- God was seeing evidence of Israel's growing 'God' fatigue.**
- The people of God were backslidden and had lost their sense of 'wonder' of God.**

What have I done to make you tired of me?

- Backsliding is the gradual erosion of our fervor for, and appreciation of, God.**
- What happened to Israel can happen to a church, or a person. (In fact it does)**
- It happens when we lose sight of all God is, and of all He has done for us.**

What have I done to make you tired of me?

- Isaiah 1:4 Oh, what a sinful nation they are—loaded down with a burden of guilt. They are evil people, corrupt children who have rejected the Lord. They have despised the Holy One of Israel and turned their backs on him. 5 Why do you continue to invite punishment? Must you rebel forever? *Your head is injured, and your heart is sick.*

What have I done to make you tired of me?

- When we are backslidden, we have two problems.**
- We do not think straight, and our hearts no longer seek after God.**
- It is both a problem of the mind, and of the soul.**

What have I done to make you tired of me?

- Israel had many problems at this point in her history, but ‘growing weary’ of God is a primary cause of backsliding.**
- When we forget what He has done, what He has given, and what He has saved us from, we have a big problem.**
- We become self-centered instead of God-centered.**

What is the Remedy for Backsliding?

- **The people grasp at ways to gain back their standing with God -**
- **6 What can we bring to the Lord? Should we bring him burnt offerings? Should we bow before God Most High with offerings of yearling calves? 7 Should we offer him thousands of rams and ten thousand rivers of olive oil? Should we sacrifice our firstborn children to pay for our sins?**

What is the Remedy for Backsliding?

- **We always wants rules, regulations, and activities.**
- **God wants our heart.**
- **We want to earn, God wants to give.**
- **We want to be comforted, God wants to be worshipped.**

What is the Remedy for Backsliding?

- The Lord responds to their query with a quick “no” – I do not want your offerings, *I want your obedience.*
- The way back is never through the doing of things that God finds detestable.
- Proverbs 14:12 There is a way that appears to be right, but in the end it leads to death.

Do right (justly)

- **Do justly (do what is right).**
- **Eph 2:10 tells us that we were created for good works – that is a primary way of revealing (glorifying) God.**
- **“Let your light so shine” is not just a good idea, it is a command.**

Do right (justly)

- We should resist the urge to think on a grand scale of doing right, and focus on the thousands of opportunities to do good things that sum up to something grand.**
- Living for Jesus is not always an intermittent series of things that are very visible and look spiritual.**
- Living for Jesus is more likely to be presented in the mundane and the everyday.**

Do right (justly)

- **Verses 11-16 of this chapter speak of things like being honest, impartial, and ethical.**
- **Doing what is right is not always easy, but it always accumulates, then stands out.**
- **Would your friends, relatives, and business associates characterize you as one who “does right”?**

Love Mercy

- **Along with doing the right things to and by their neighbors, they are called to be merciful.**
- **Justice and Mercy should be brothers and sisters.**
- **We want justice when we are wronged, but the law of love also calls out for mercy.**

Love Mercy

- **So when we are cheated (see the rest of the chapter) we should want justice.**
- **However, using the 'golden rule' requires me to allow for mercy as I seek justice.**
- **Perhaps we mostly love mercy when it is we who seek it. 😊**

Love Mercy

- **We need to be jolted by who God is and perhaps, as much as anything else, by His mercy.**
- **We've lost the wonder and majesty of His mercy.**
- **The Lord tells Israel through Micah – think of your history and all the times I showed up for you.**

Love Mercy

- Let us think of our own lives and what we would be without God showing mercy to us.
- Rom 11:30 Once, you Gentiles were rebels against God, but when the people of Israel rebelled against him, God was merciful to you instead. 31 Now they are the rebels, and God's mercy has come to you so that they, too, will share in God's mercy. 32 For God has imprisoned everyone in disobedience so he could have mercy on everyone.

Love Mercy

- **At the core of mercy is this giant idea of God withholding the judgment and consequences we are really due.**
- **God is about redemption and restoration, and they are only possible with mercy.**
- **We are called to 'love' mercy – I wonder why?**

Love Mercy

- **I think it's because the only way we will really love mercy is for us to first understand its purpose.**
- **It is through our understanding the mercy of God that we begin to honor and worship Him.**
- **When one stands guilty before an all powerful God, and we find mercy we cannot help but see Him with stunned wonder.**

Love Mercy

- **When we love mercy it fills us with worship for the One who extends it.**
- **When we love mercy and are captured by its worth, we extend it to others.**
- **Would your friends, relatives, and business associates characterize you as one who “loves mercy”?**

Walk Humbly with God.

- **Our lives, when examined honestly and in relationship to His standards, make us humble.**
- **Instead of taking pride in what we bring to sacrifice to God, we should be humbled by our want of anything valuable to offer.**
- **May God help us to understand our utter bankruptcy before Him and be humbled by it.**

Walk Humbly with God.

- **We are not ‘somebody’ on our own – on our own we are hopeless, powerless, and lost.**
- **It is only in Christ that we have hope for a future, power to live, and are not lost.**
- **Job 20:6 Though the pride of the godless reaches to the heavens and their heads touch the clouds, 7 yet they will vanish forever, thrown away like their own dung. Those who knew them will ask, ‘Where are they?’ 8 They will fade like a dream and not be found. They will vanish like a vision in the night. 9 Those who once saw them will see them no more. Their families will never see them again.**

Walk Humbly with God.

- **I should walk humbly with God because it is the only reasonable posture for me.**
- **Remembering that it is only by God's grace and mercy that I am invited to walk with God, should humble me by itself.**
- **It is only the humble who will be used by God and if we miss that, we have missed our purpose.**

Walk Humbly with God.

- **Prov 16:18 Pride goes before destruction, and haughtiness before a fall.**
- **We should display humility because we have nothing to boast about and because destruction awaits the proud.**
- **Would your friends, relatives, and business associates characterize you as one who “walk humbly with God”?**

Questions