

WHAT DOTHTHE LORD REQUIRE

The text for our thoughts together this morning is from Micah 6:8. The prophet says: "He hath shewed thee, O man, what is good; and what doth the Lord require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God?" Notice especially the inquiry: "What doth the Lord require of thee?" The answer is given: "to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God." There are a number of very worthwhile lessons to be gained from this Scripture.

First, the question, "What doth the Lord require of thee," certainly IMPLIES THAT GOD DOES REQUIRE SOMETHING OF MEN. Too often men think of God altogether from the standpoint of what He does for them, without realizing their duty to God. Our thoughts are usually more on God supplying our needs and wants, than on our serving Him. This is not to say that we ought not to look to God for blessings. At the same time, however, we should be concerned about what we must do to please Him. Let each person ask: What doth the Lord require of ME?

The opening words of the text, "He hath shewed thee, O man, what is good," suggest that THE GOOD WAY IS THE WAY REVEALED BY GOD. We are not left to decide for ourselves what will please Him. The Lord tells us what is required. Jeremiah wrote: "O Lord, I know that the way of man is not in himself: It is not in man that walketh to direct his steps." (Jeremiah 10:23) The mind of man cannot by itself conceive the will of God. It must be revealed to Him. It is revealed in the Scriptures.

The first two things required pertain to our dealings with our fellow man. One cannot ignore his obligations to others and expect to please God. TO DO JUSTLY asserts the necessity of honesty and fairness in all things. The Bible says, "The just man walketh in his integrity." (Proverbs 20:7) Again, in Proverbs we read: "Better is the poor that walketh in his uprightness, than he that is perverse in his ways, though he be rich." (Proverbs 28:6) TO LOVE MERCY reminds that not only must we be honest and fair; but also we must do what we can to assist others. The apostle Paul declared that we should not only refuse to steal, but also work that we may have to give to people in need. (Ephesians 4:28) The principle of loving mercy is exemplified in the parable of the Good Samaritan. He did not inflict the harm that befell the man by the wayside; neither did he ignore his suffering: but loved mercy and- showed it to the helpless traveler.

Finally, the requirement of God is that we WALK HUMBLY WITH HIM. This includes doing everything commanded, because humility is the beginning point of obedience. Jesus Christ, who perfectly did all that His Father commanded, first humbled Himself. Philippians 2:8 says of Christ: "And being found in fashion as

a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross." This is the opposite of arrogant refusal to do God's will.

Walking with God means walking by faith. Walking by faith is living according to the teaching of God's word, because "faith cometh by hearing and hearing by the word of God." Romans 10: 17

Let us resolve to live each day in fairness and kindness; and to walk with God by humbly doing His commandments.