

**Title:** The “Resolutions” God Requires

**Passage:** Micah 6:6-8

**Introduction:**

Micah

- Old Testament prophet (“minor” as to length but not in substance)
- Book written 500+ years before the birth of Jesus, which provided this prophecy of the Messiah:

Micah 5:2

But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah,  
who are too little to be among the clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me  
one who is to be ruler in Israel,  
whose coming forth is from of old,  
from ancient days.

**Context of Passage**

- In Book of Micah, God providing a testimony of what God has done.
- Message of inevitable divine judgment to a people persistently pursuing evil, which is coupled with God’s unbending commitment to His covenant promises to His remanent people.
- God will provide judgment on sinners yet also mercy and grace to those who repent.

**Passage:** Micah 6:6-8

“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?

**Discussion**

*Question:* With what shall I come before the LORD, and bow myself before God on high?

*Hypotheticals in Hyperbole:* 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?

*Answer:* 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?

**Introduction**

The New Year is a good way to reflect over past year as well as look into coming year

**Questions of Reflection in New Year**

- How has God shown Himself faithful in your life this past year?
- In what area do you need to trust God to be faithful in the coming year?

## **Jonathan Edwards - 70 resolutions**

- resolutions made when merely 19 years old.
- <https://www.desiringgod.org/articles/the-resolutions-of-jonathan-edwards>
- Example: Resolve to do what is most to God's glory

**Overview:** God's resolutions/requirements of us:

- I. To do justly
- II. To love mercy
- III. To walk humbly with your God

### **I. TO DO JUSTLY**

- **Prayer:** Lord, help me to today to do what is right in Your sight.
- Justly = to do what is just
  - Just = right before God
- Meaning: doing what is right in the sight of God
  - Not what is right in our culture
  - Not in our own sight

#### Proverbs 14:12

There is a way that seems right to a man,  
but its end is the way to death.

#### Proverbs 16:2

All the ways of a man are pure in his own eyes, but the Lord weighs the spirit.

#### Proverbs 21:2

Every way of a man is right in his own eyes,  
but the Lord weighs the heart.

#### Luke 16:15

And he said to them, "You are those who justify yourselves before men, but God knows your hearts. For what is exalted among men is an abomination in the sight of God.

#### 1 Samuel 16:7

But the Lord said to Samuel, "Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him. For the Lord sees not as man sees: man looks on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart."

#### 2 Chronicles 25:2

And he did what was right in the eyes of the Lord, yet not with a whole heart.

- We will be held accountable:

#### Hebrews 4:13

And no creature is hidden from his sight, but all are naked and exposed to the eyes of him to whom we must give account.

#### Romans 14:11-12

for it is written,

"As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God." So then each of us will give an account of himself to God.

- We act justly in the context of having been saved and already deeply loved by God through Christ.

- Not out of risk of condemnation nor fear.
- We leave to God the result of the testimony that is left through our lives.

### 1 Corinthians 3:6-7

I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth. So neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth.

### Proverbs 20:7

The righteous who walks in his integrity—  
blessed are his children after him!

### Psalms 101:2-3

I will ponder the way that is blameless.

Oh when will you come to me? I will walk with integrity of heart within my house;

I will not set before my eyes anything that is worthless. I hate the work of those who fall away; it shall not cling to me.

## II. TO LOVE MERCY

- focus: our relationship with others
- Love = “hesed”
  - Hesed = lovingkindness, compassion
  - This is the love of Christ and the power of the Holy Spirit working through us (not our own effort our own love)
- Mercy = kindness = “chrestos” (similar to word for “Christ”)
  - People make connection between the kindness of Christians and the Christ of Whom they believe.
- Ephesians 4-6
  - Kindness and mercy of God in practice/various contexts
    - Husband/wife
    - Children
    - Employer/employee

### John 13:34-35

A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.

### Matthew 22:36-40

“Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?” And he said to him, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets.”

- **Prayer:** Lord, help me today to show lovingkindness and mercy to others.

## III. TO WALK HUMBLY WITH YOUR GOD

- Your God = personal relationship with God
- Walk = one’s lifestyle = ongoing communion and fellowship with God (not sporadic emergency room visits)
- **Prayer:** Lord, help me today to walk humbly with You.

Matthew 5:3

Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Hebrews 4:16

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.

- Quote: "Only God can enable me this day to live as He would have me to live." (Andrew Murray)

Galatians 2:20

I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

2 Corinthians 5:15

and he died for all, that those who live might no longer live for themselves but for him who for their sake died and was raised.