

What Gifts Does God Want?

Micah 6:6-8





- This time of the year is a time of generosity
- On some occasions we are more generous than we can afford to be (spend more than we should)
- It seems that, unlike the wise men who visited the manger of the baby Jesus, we bring gifts to everybody but Jesus
- This time of year we think about gifts, agonize over gifts, and endure inconveniences just to get our friends and family, the right one
- I wonder what gifts Jesus would want?

Micah Had a Similar Dilemma!

Micah 6:6-8

*“With what shall I come before the Lord,
And bow myself before the High God?
Shall I come before Him with burnt offerings,
With calves a year old?
Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams,
Ten thousand rivers of oil?”*





*“Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression,
The fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?
He has shown you, oh man what is good;
And what does the Lord require of you
But do justly,
To love mercy,
And to walk humbly with your God?”*

Micah Says God Wants 3 Gifts From You And Me!

#1 Act Justly

- There is so little justice in the world, the rich get richer and the poor get poorer
- There is a saying, “Steal \$10 dollars, go to jail, steal a million, get elected to congress”
- If you were able to wrap “justice” as a gift and bring it to Jesus, what would it look like?



Act Justly!



- “We promise to be fair in our business transactions”
- “We promise not to lie to our customers”
- “We will be fair and just in the things that we do”
- “We will be honest in what we say”
- “We will be fair to different races of people”
- “We will not gossip or complain about things”

#2 Love Mercy!

- It is hard to find mercy and kindness today
- You have probably heard the story about the woman who never cursed, but caused everyone around her to! We all have known people like that!
- Have you ever been treated unkindly for something that wasn't your fault (physical illness; remember the 10 lepers that Jesus met, were not even welcomed in their own homes Luke 9)

What About the Samaritan Woman!

- This was the woman Jesus met at the well(John 3). How many husbands had she had? (And the man she was living with, she was not married to)
- When she walked down the street she must have been looked down on by the public.
- What if Jesus had been unkind to her? “I want nothing to do with you!”
- But rather than disrespect her, He spoke in ways that would cause her to run back into her hometown and ask people to come and meet a man who knew everything she had ever done but still treated her with kindness
- The gift of kindness would then be a wonderful gift to bestow on each other this time of year. Ephesians 4:32

#3 Walk Humbly With Our God

- Jesus showed up in a world, during His time on earth, that was not terribly impressed with humility
- During His time people were arrogant and proud
- Your importance was gauged by how many slaves you had and whether you lived in the aristocracy or not
- His world was greatly impressed with “POWER”

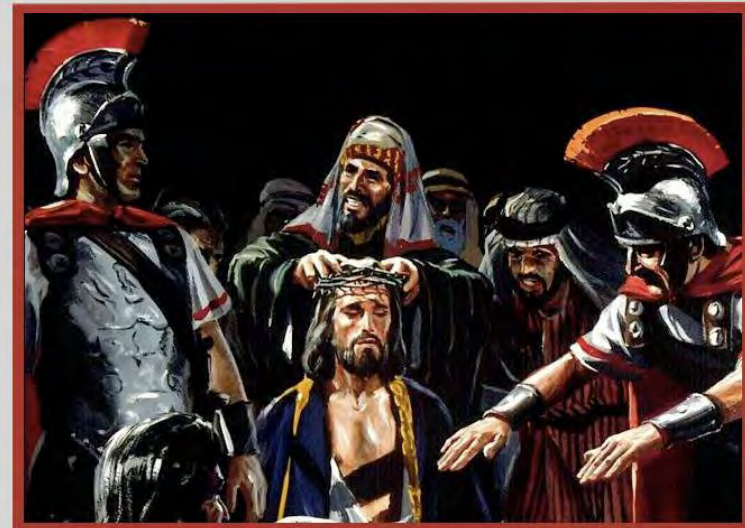
- Roman officers, in Jesus' world, rode on prancing stallions with helmets and swords, giving orders and making people respond to the orders
- Into this world Jesus came, not on a stallion, but seated on the foal of a donkey



- They rejected Him!



- They mocked Him!



The Soldiers Mock Jesus

- They crucified Him!



After 2000 years, are we any different than the Greeks and the Romans?

We are impressed by Brand Names, the right clothes and the right automobiles, the right neighborhoods!



YET!

- To Micah, the Lord said, “walk humbly with thy God”

Three Gifts For God!

- There is no money required to give them
- There is no talent required to give them
- Everyone here can give to God, today and forever



The Plan Of Salvation

Hear the Gospel

Acts 15:7

Believe the Gospel

Acts 15:7

Repent of Sins

Acts 17:30

Confess Christ

Acts 8:37

Be Baptized

Acts 8:38