

Few verses in scripture speak with more clarity than Micah 6:8 about what God values. In this series we will explore what it means to focus on what God focuses on most. Justice. Mercy. Humility. Repeat!

These questions are designed to extend the impact of the weekend message. Use them to go deeper in your personal study time, with your family and/or with a group.

**1** What are some things that often take our focus off of what matters most to God?

**2** Micah was a prophet sent by God in the last part of the 8th century to help God's people focus on the real reason behind the threats they faced. **Read Micah 6:9-12.** What stands out to you the most about their moral weakness?

**3** So God decides to take them to court. **Read Micah 6:1-5.** What evidence do you see in these verses that should have reminded them that **God has been good**? Follow up discussion: Rick noted that what God is establishing is critical – *“When we lose focus on how God has treated us, the way we ought to treat others will start to get blurry.”* How have you experienced this to be true in your life?

**4** The suit began with God making a strong argument for His faithfulness and goodness. He then reminds them that the problem wasn't their lack of passion; the problem was that their passion was focused on the wrong things. **Read Micah 6:6-8.** What stands out to you the most about what **God has defined good**? Share an example of how focusing on the wrong things can prevent you from focusing on the good God requires of you.

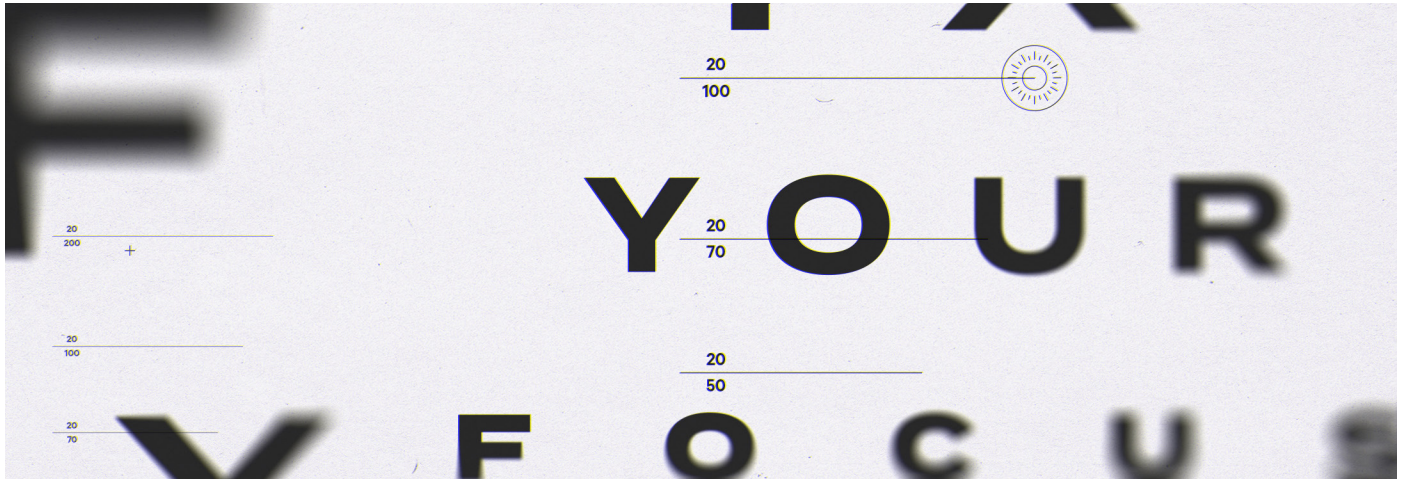
**5 GOOD... isn't being in the right place...** Rick reminded us that there is a way of focusing on a place (“going to church”) that gets our priorities out of place. What was Rick emphasizing with this point? How should what happens “in this place” inspire and empower us to do good in “every place”?

**6 ...or making the right payments...** Most religions focus on getting God to drop the charges by buying Him off. Why is this so? How does that type of religion get a person's life to be “out of focus” (see **Isaiah 1:11-17**)?

**7 ...but treating people right.** What God considers to be good is focusing on people, and especially on the people who typically get overlooked. Look at the following scriptures and note the different ways God stands with and for the marginalized. **Read Deuteronomy 10:18; Psalm 146:7-9; Proverbs 14:31 and Zechariah 7:9-10.** What resonates with you from these verses? Share some stories of the different ways you've seen The Hills partner with organizations to care for people who often get overlooked.

**8** Let's be clear: **“good” still needs good news.** Rick closed by reminding us that *“Saved people do good, but doing good is not the way to be saved.”* **Read Titus 3:4-5.** What difference does it make that God saves us out of His great mercy and not because of anything we do?





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**1 Read Micah 6:8** Justice seems to be a universal longing of people. Why is that, especially since many who value justice have a worldview with no moral absolutes?

**2 MOST FOCUS ON... “punish” instead of “flourish.”** Justice matters because it is grounded in the character of God. **Read Psalm 89:14 and 33:5** With that in mind, how should that influence us since we are image-bearers of God? Follow up discussion: Rick pointed out that *“The Bible does speak often and clearly about retributive justice, but it speaks most often about restorative justice.”* Why is this understanding of justice so significant? With this in mind, what does it mean to “act justly” (see **2 Samuel 8:15**)?

**3 Read Luke 10:25-38.** What is the most challenging part of this parable to you? Why?

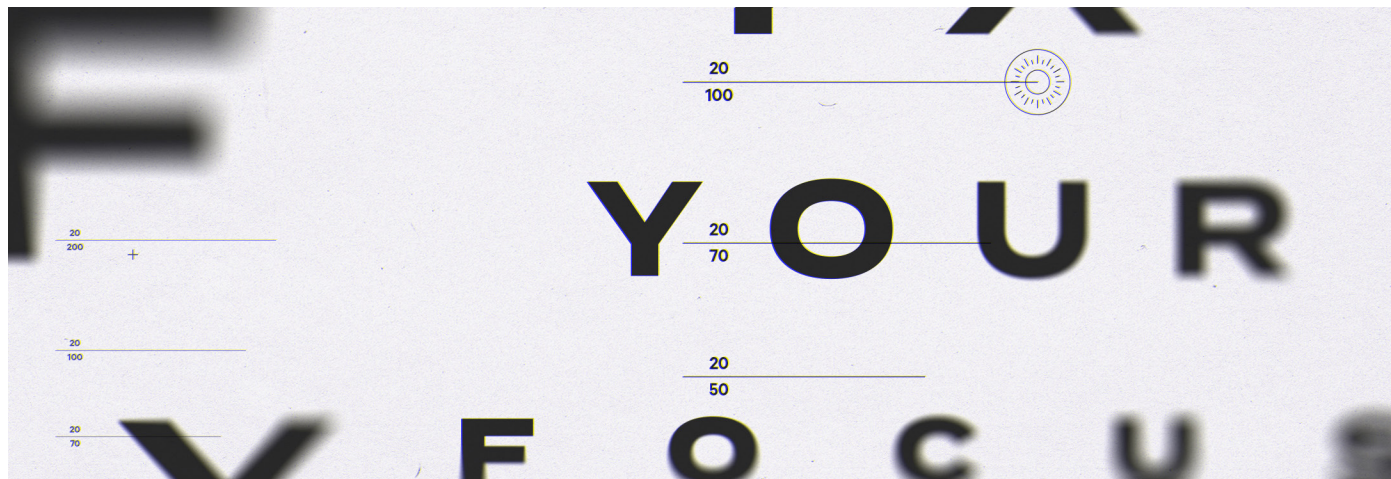
**4 JUSTICE MEANS... We don’t do people wrong.** Rick noted that *“Just people don’t cheat, victimize, or take advantage of their neighbors”* like the people in Micah’s day were doing (**Read Micah 2:2, 3:9-11; and 7:3**). What are some legal yet unjust ways people are denied opportunity today?

**5 JUSTICE MEANS... We help those who’ve been wronged.** The two who walked past the man in the ditch (from Luke 10) didn’t put him there, but Jesus faulted them for not helping him out. Rick mentioned that *“Justice is more than the absence of badness; it is the presence of active goodness.”* **Read Isaiah 1:17 and Proverbs 31:8-9.** According to those verses, what does justice look like? Share a story of someone you know who has been a champion for those who have no power. What do you think motivated them to engage when detachment would have been the safer path?

**6 JUSTICE MEANS... We try to right what’s wrong.** Rick noted that *“Justice is more than helping the people out of the ditch; it is trying to make the road safer so fewer people wind up in it.”* Why is it significant to realize that injustice is not just personal but it is often structural? What hope does **Micah 4:3-4** provide us and what role does the church play in providing people with a glimpse of the world that is coming?

**7** Let’s be clear: **justice is never “just us.”** Rick closed by reminding us *“To act justly is to love my neighbor no matter who they are, no matter where I find them, no matter what they’ve done. To act justly is to want them to be as blessed as I’ve been.”* What part of that reminder is most challenging to you? What is one thing you can do to become a person who consistently acts justly?





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**1 Micah 6:8** focuses on the values God has said we should focus on. What is one thing that has resonated with you the most so far in this series?

**2 MOST FOCUS ON... merit more than mercy.**

Mercy is rarely appreciated or initiated in the kingdoms of men. The world operates by the principle “*you should get what you deserve.*” In almost every area of your life you are rewarded for performance. In what areas of your life are you most judged on a merit system, and how do you think that might impact you spiritually?

**3 Read Luke 10:36-37.** What is challenging or significant about Jesus presenting “*mercy as a verb*”? Share some examples of how you’ve experienced mercy as a choice, as an action, or as a joy. **Micah 7:18** reminds us that God delights to show mercy. How should that encourage and inspire you to do the same?

**4 MERCY IS GOOD... because it reflects God.**

Rick said that “*We base our actions on who we believe God to be. So, if we do not delight in opportunities to give others what they do not deserve we do not have a ‘mercy’ problem; we have a ‘knowledge of God’ problem.*” How have you encountered this to be true? **Read Ephesians 2:4-5, Titus 3:4-5, 1 Peter 1:3, and Lamentations 3:22-23.** What stands out to you the most about the picture these verses paint about who God is?

**5 MERCY IS GOOD... because it reveals scripture.**

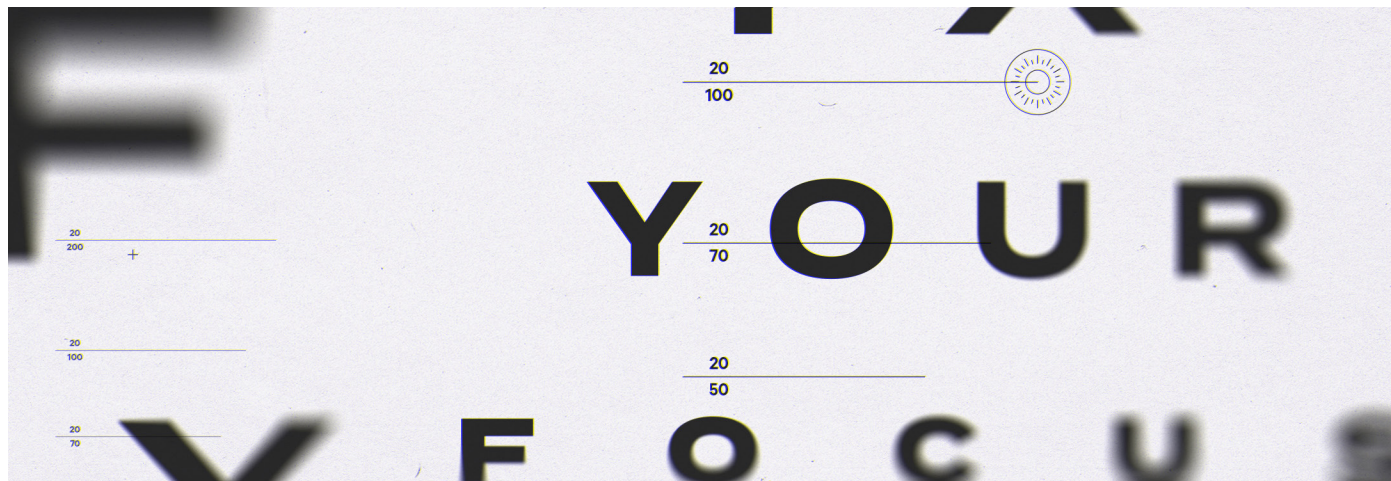
When Jesus met someone who knew the scriptures but didn’t seem to reflect the heart of God he always reminded them of the primacy of mercy (see **Matthew 9:12-13; 12:7**). How should being in the Word make you more merciful and how will loving mercy make you more Biblical?

**6 MERCY IS GOOD... because it rebukes pride.**

The kingdom of God is for the poor in spirit, but most of us tend to be “middle-class” in spirit. And the irony is that religion can fuel our drift in that direction. How does the story Jesus told in **Luke 18:9-13** illustrate this to be true? How has this been a challenge for you? Follow up: in **Matthew 18:21-35** Jesus tells a story about an unmerciful servant. How is it possible for someone who has received so much mercy to then fail to be merciful to others?

**7** Let’s be clear: people who need it love it! Rick closed by reminding us that “*We need an intentional strategy for maintaining our focus on a merciful God who came for us. For me communion serves as a weekly opportunity to regain clarity.*” Share some ways communion can help you to “regain clarity” each week. Closing application: What are some opportunities we have to show mercy to others on a regular basis?





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**1** This series has reminded us that Micah understands the value of clarity. **Micah 6:8** shows us that what God wants is not complicated, but it is not easy either. What does it mean to “act justly,” “love mercy,” and “walk humbly”? Which one is most difficult for you to do?

**2 MOST FOCUS... their attention on getting attention.** We live in an “it’s all about me” culture. Share some examples of how you’ve seen this to be true. Follow up: What God has made clear is that He opposes the proud and gives grace to the humble (see **Micah 2:3** and **Isaiah 66:2**). Rick noted that “*We will never act justly and love mercy without walking humbly with God.*” Why is that the case?

**3 Read Philippians 2:3-8** Though culture often views humility as a weakness, in what ways did Jesus’ humility convey and require strength?

**4 WALKING HUMBLY MEANS... going where God wants to take me.** Rick reminded us not to miss the wonder of this thought “*that God wants us to walk with Him.*” What does this imply about the kind of relationship God wants us to have with Him? What challenges come along with this type of relationship (see **Luke 9:23**)? Follow up: Share an example of how “*walking humbly with God*” has led you to places outside of your comfort zone.

**5 WALKING HUMBLY MEANS... being fine with not being noticed.** Rick noted that “*The reason we crave attention is because we live in a world where self-worth is determined by applause.*” How have you experienced that to be true in your life? Follow up: On a scale of 1 to 10 how real is the struggle to be “liked” (“to be noticed”) for you? How can what Paul says in **Philippians 2:3** help you to grow in this area?

**6 WALKING HUMBLY MEANS... doing the next good thing for someone else.** When you walk with God you get clarity on what gets His attention. God notices people, especially those who rarely get noticed. And walking with Him begins to fix our focus on opportunities to act justly and love mercy. **Read Galatians 6:10.** What stands out to you the most from this verse? Share the highlights of a “God-engineered” moment when you witnessed someone having the opportunity to do good to someone.

**7 Let’s be clear: we must keep our focus on Jesus!** Rick closed by reminding us that a life focused on “me” is sure to bring frustration; while a life focused on Jesus brings fulfillment. How has **Micah 6:8** brought this truth into better clarity for you? What is one thing you plan to do differently based on what you’ve learned in this series?

