

Daily Practices

Week of 2/15/21 - 2/19/21

DAY 1 // DAILY PRACTICES

PRAYER: Lord Jesus, please help me to slow down enough in this moment to be fully present to myself and to you. May I hear how you want me to do justice, to love kindness, and to walk humbly with you.

SILENCE: Set a timer for two minutes. Sit in silence and bring your attention to the presence of God with you right now.

SCRIPTURE: Micah 6:1-4

¹ Hear what the Lord says: Arise, plead your case before the mountains, and let the hills hear your voice. ² Hear, you mountains, the indictment of the Lord, and you enduring foundations of the earth, for the Lord has an indictment against his people, and he will contend with Israel. ³ “O my people, what have I done to you? How have I wearied you? Answer me! ⁴ For I brought you up from the land of Egypt and redeemed you from the house of slavery, and I sent before you Moses, Aaron, and Miriam.

DEVOTIONAL: The Lord spoke to his people through the prophet Micah. God called his people into the courtroom and told them to plead their case. The people were living during a time of prosperity; and God brings a charge against the wealthy. He said that they were oppressing the poor, so they should be warned of impending judgment. The people are told to “plead your case” or “make your defense” “before the mountains” and “hills.” Inanimate objects were called on as third-party witnesses because they were witnesses to his covenant. Even creation knows the truth—God seeks justice for all people. God reminds his people that they have experienced God fighting for justice for them when he liberated them from slavery. Because they had been liberated, they should have followed God’s example to seek justice for all people. The same is true for us today. As God’s people, we have been liberated from the slavery of sin; and that should lead us to seek justice for all people.

RESPONSE: Take two minutes to respond to the scripture, devotional, or the Holy Spirit’s prompting. Respond by writing in a journal, by meditating on a specific thought, or by talking with God.

SILENCE: Set a timer for two minutes. Sit in silence and bring your attention to what God is speaking to you.

DAY 2 // DAILY PRACTICES

PRAYER: Lord Jesus, please help me to slow down enough in this moment to be fully present to myself and to you. May I hear how you want me to do justice, to love kindness, and to walk humbly with you.

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SCRIPTURE: Micah 6:6-7

⁶ With what shall I come before the Lord and bow down before the exalted God? Shall I come before him with burnt offerings, with calves a year old? ⁷ Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams, with ten thousand rivers of oil? Shall I offer my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?

DEVOTIONAL: When our actions are called into question, we tend to get defensive. We try to defend ourselves by our good actions. This is how God's people responded in Micah. They tried to find religious acts by adding more sacrifices in order to prove themselves to God. That's not what God wanted. Yes, those religious ceremonies were designed for his people to grow closer to God, but without seeking justice for all people, these ceremonies were worthless in growing closer to him. Why was it worthless? Because as a just God, growing closer to him would mean that we seek justice for those who are oppressed. This is a difficult word for us today because we are tempted to just add more religious acts to our lives in order to prove ourselves to God. God wants us to get to know him and follow his character and actions.

RESPONSE: Take two minutes to respond to the scripture, devotional, or the Holy Spirit's prompting. Respond by writing in a journal, by meditating on a specific thought, or by talking with God.

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DAY 3 // DAILY PRACTICES

PRAYER: Lord Jesus, please help me to slow down enough in this moment to be fully present to myself and to you. May I hear how you want me to do justice, to love kindness, and to walk humbly with you.

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SCRIPTURE: Micah 6:8–9

⁸He 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? ⁹The voice of the Lord cries to the city—and it is sound wisdom to fear your name: “Hear of the rod and of him who appointed it!

DEVOTIONAL: We can't prove ourselves to God. However, he does tell us what he requires from us. He requires us to “do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly” with him. J. M. P. Smith calls this passage “the finest summary of the content of practical religion to be found in the Old Testament.” As a summary of what our Christian lives should look like, we should spend more time examining our lives. If God explicitly says something so critical to being a Christian, then we should take it seriously. As a part of your response today, spend some time examining these questions:

Do I seek to do justice?

Do I love kindness?

Do I walk humbly?

RESPONSE: Take a few minutes to respond to the scripture, devotional, or the Holy Spirit's prompting. Respond by writing in a journal, by meditating on a specific thought, or by talking with God.

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DAY 4 // DAILY PRACTICES

PRAYER: Lord Jesus, please help me to slow down enough in this moment to be fully present to myself and to you. May I hear how you want me to do justice, to love kindness, and to walk humbly with you.

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SCRIPTURE: Micah 6:10–12

¹⁰Can I forget any longer the treasures of wickedness in the house of the wicked, and the scant measure that is accursed? ¹¹Shall I acquit the man with wicked scales and with a bag of deceitful weights? ¹²Your rich men are full of violence; your inhabitants speak lies, and their tongue is deceitful in their mouth.

DEVOTIONAL: In a culture that talks about injustice, this passage gives us some insight into how God defines injustice. He has very harsh language toward people who earned their wealth through oppressive means. He condemns unfair business practices and unfair systems. Christians should speak against evil systems and evil actions. They should move from speaking to acting by seeking ways to execute justice fairly and equitably. God wants humanity—and especially the people of God—to seek the freedom found in living like Jesus. When we live like Jesus, we will live more justly, more lovingly, and more humbly. Ultimately, we can know that where there is justice, there is liberty.

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DAY 5 // DAILY PRACTICES

PRAYER: Lord Jesus, please help me to slow down enough in this moment to be fully present to myself and to you. May I hear how you want me to do justice, to love kindness, and to walk humbly with you.

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SCRIPTURE: Jeremiah 22:15-16

¹⁵ As the Lord said to King Josiah's son, "Did not your father have food and drink? He did what was right and just, so all went well with him. He defended the cause of the poor and needy, and so all went well. Is that not what it means to know me?"

DEVOTIONAL: God wants us to know him. He went through great lengths so that we could experience a relationship with him. He took our punishment for the injustice that we committed against God. We could never live up to God's expectation of justice. We didn't deserve to know God. But Jesus took that punishment on himself in our place. We can have new life with him because he defended our cause when we were spiritually poor and needy. God came to our aid when we couldn't help ourselves. Yet, this forgiveness that we are given shouldn't keep us from pursuing the justice, kindness, and humbleness that God requires. God himself is fully just, kind, and humbly, and if we turn our eyes away from others who are experiencing injustice, then do we really know God? Do we really want to become more like him? As you reflect today, ask the Holy Spirit to speak to your heart. Ask him to show you how you can know him more.

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