



## Repentance Tabernacle Church

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### A God of Justice

**Focus Verse:** Micah 6:8 - 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?

**Lesson Text:** Psalm 146:7-9; Micah 6:6-12; Mark 11:15-19

**Truth About God:** Jesus cares about the abused, particularly those who have been abused in His name.

**Truth For My Life:** I will love and support those who have been wronged.

God's justice is demonstrated in His actions. Jesus performed many miracles for the benefit of the poor and oppressed, including widows, those who were sick, and social outcasts such as lepers. The first miracle performed in the Book of Acts was the healing of a lame beggar (Acts 3:1-10). Jesus and His followers believed in and practiced justice. Believers should care about justice because God cares about justice. Deuteronomy 32:4 describes the Almighty by saying, "All his ways are judgment: a God of truth and without iniquity, just and right is he." Psalm 146:7-9 elaborates on God's justice by declaring He upholds the cause of the oppressed.

Justice is an act, not a feeling. Justice involves rolling up our sleeves and getting personally involved in relieving the suffering of the world. It is also a way of showing the world what heaven looks like. If we want to bring Heaven to earth, we must start by pursuing justice. However, pursuing true justice can be difficult and painful. It often seems easier to ignore problems than to deal with them. Pursuing justice is rarely convenient. It makes people uncomfortable. It can cause misunderstandings. Only through prayer does the Holy Spirit give us the desire to deal with injustices and the wisdom to resolve them in a godly manner.

How should the church respond to injustice in our world? The answer begins with an acknowledgement of our past. With God's help, we will stay humble and grounded. Our churches will be places where everyone can find love and compassion regardless of race, ethnicity, social status, or economic resources. God does not show favoritism, and neither can we.

Christians should not participate in any business transaction that knowingly takes advantage of others, especially the poor and needy. Some careers should be off-limits to believers for this reason. Christians who serve in position of leadership or authority must treat their employees, coworkers, and customers fairly and with respect, regardless of the circumstances or any personal disagreements or differences that may exist. We cannot mistreat and abuse others and expect to disciple them to Jesus.

What does God require of us? Sacrifices alone are not sufficient. God does not ask us to give what we do not have. He is not impressed with an outward show of worship and sacrifice that tries to mask the stench of a disobedient heart. Jesus quoted the prophet Isaiah when He said of the religious leaders of His day. "This people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth, and honoureth me with their lips; but their heart is far from me. But in vain they do worship me" (Matthew 15:8-9). Personal holiness and morality are important, but they do not excuse a lack of care and concern for others. Sacrifice in one area does not make up for disobedience in other areas.

God has shown us what is good and what He requires, Micah said, "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" (Micah 6:8). God is looking for a pure heart that serves God and serves others. He requires us to do justly, not just think, talk, or even pray justly. As Micah noted, humility is necessary. We should remember the words of Jesus in Luke 12:48, "Unto whomsoever much is given, of him shall be much required." One of those requirements is showing mercy, grace, and compassion to those who have not enjoyed the same blessings we have enjoyed.

Is the church a comfortable place where only people just like us are welcome? Or do we have room for the hurting and the outcasts, the people no one else wants? Are we willing to love and serve those who have faced injustice and abuse at the hands of this world and even at the hands of other churches? To what lengths are we willing to go to make it happen?

**How we answer that question may determine how much we really want to be like Jesus!**