

Walking with God and Dwelling in His Presence

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Reading – Psalms 15 and Micah 6:8

The prophet Micah exclaimed, “And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.”

This is a great call for all of us today! Here Prophet Micah points out three actions.

1. To act justly.

To be just means to be morally RIGHT. Every action of a believer should be made in light of how God would react in His just actions. God is perfect in his ways (Psalms 18:30). Likewise, our actions need to be perfect with God. Is it really possible?

I personally take this matter very interesting because no one is perfect and everyone has fallen short of the glory of God (Romans 3:23). So, how can we act justly? This is possible only by walking with God and asking his help in decisions that we take daily. In this regard, Nehemiah is a great example. He prayed with fasting for obtaining success for him and the whole Israelites for a beginning to rebuild Jerusalem and its walls (Neh 1:4-11). He used the same principle for obtaining victory over all enemies against building the wall (Neh 4:4-5).

In addition to his long prayers for critical decisions, Nehemiah also used short prayers before every major decision he made. For example, please see Nehemiah’s short prayers in different circumstances (Nehemiah 5:19 for seeking blessing, Neh 6:9 asking God’s strength, Neh 6:14 for God’s protection from enemies, Neh 13:14 calling God to remembrance, Neh 13:22 for God’s mercy, Neh 13:29 for God’s intervention to deal with people who fail in spiritual duties, and Neh 13:31 for God’s favor). Moreover, we can also use mute prayers (silent yet powerful short prayers) similar to what Nehemiah did (Neh 2:4, 4:9) as well.

In line with the Prophet’s call, Psalms 15 talks about who can dwell in God’s sanctuary. There are four attributes of the person explained there (v.2); walking blameless, doing things right, speaking truth from heart, and lends money without interest. These are the actions that are directed to God and our fellowmen. The fourth attribute deals with how we interact with others in our businesses. If we are doing business, He is looking for just and righteous deals with others. On the other hand, if we are working for others, we need to uphold the values of their work or institution and work accordingly. We can make this happen if we follow Nehemiah’s method of praying for God’s direction in our daily life.

2. To love mercy.

Mathew 18 speaks about the King/Master who cancels debts of one of his servants. He cancels about 160,000 years of labor worth debt (1 talent = 20-40 kg gold). If the master had not cancelled the debt, he would have been in the jail for the rest of his life and his wife

and children would have been sold as slaves. However, this servant goes on and tortures another fellow servant of his for just 100 denarii (1 denarius = 4g silver coin = a day's wages) which is equivalent to 100 days' wages. This made the other fellow servants understand the situation and report it to the Master. We forget to learn mercy from our Master Jesus. Once we obtain pardon for our sins, we think we've become perfect and start to think of those who are lost or with sin as worthless and lowly. Let God judge the sinner; our idea should be to talk to them about the love of God revealed in Jesus Christ for the remission of their sins. One of the core principles of Christian life is to consider sin unpardonable and love the sinner as a fellow human being and a potential inheritor of heaven.

Psalm 15 recognizes this problem and requires four characteristics from a person who would like to be in God's presence. There are four different kinds of people whom he interacts continually; his neighbor, fellow worker, sinner, and fellow believer. He does not do wrong to his neighbor, those who know him fairly well, he interacts well with his fellowman – those who know him for his professional skills and ethics, he despises sin and leads a sinner to God and honors those who fear the Lord – his fellow brothers and sisters.

3. To walk humbly with God.

One of the major activities God would like to see in his children is to keep his commands correct. In order to do this, we need to understand his commands – the assurance of eternal life that He has given us through the way of Salvation. We need to keep them to our hearts even when trials and tribulations come up and test us (Ps. 15:4b).

If we follow the first two steps correctly, the third will automatically fall into place. Because God loves a relationship with us. He would like us to be just in our actions to Him and others, and would like us to exercise mercy to others and to walk humbly before Him.

Amen.

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