

Communion Meditation

Micah 6.6-8 “Satisfying God” August 26th, 2018

Gifts that Satisfy God

- Satisfying God (or ‘**the gods**’) is a common theme when studying history
- Nearly all cultures acknowledged God / Yet devised their own methods
- Animal sacrifice was common / Human sacrifice sadly was not uncommon
 - **!!!**: Witch doctors like gov’t / Failures lead to more power (*tyrants*)

3 Answers to a Rhetorical Question

- **v6** ~ “With what shall I come before the .. High God?”
 1. “burnt offerings .. calves a year old .. thousands of rams?”
 2. “ten thousand rivers of oil?”
 3. “my firstborn .. fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?”
- Note the escalation in numbers (a few, thousands, tens of thousands)
 - You can sense the frenzied nature of such an escalation of gifts

v8 ~ “He has shown you, O man”

- In this phrase is comfort / A promise of peace / An end to the frenzy
- But “**How has God shown us?**” / “**What has God shown us?**”
- That “**The heart of the matter is the matter of the heart**” – Phil & Kathy CC

Two Common Errors

- **vss 6 – 7** ~ First is to think that outward conformity to Law is sufficient
 - This failure was common in Christ’s day / Still so in ours
- Second to think that justice, mercy, and humility are possible apart from God
 - “I beseech you, take these words, and .. test your daily life by them. God requires me to do justly. Does there not rise before my memory many an act in which, in regard to persons and in regard to circumstances, I have fallen beneath that requirement? He requires me ‘to love mercy.’ He requires me ‘to walk humbly,’ and I have often been inflated and self-conceited and presumptuous. He requires me to walk with Himself, and I have shaken away His hand from me, and passed whole days without ever thinking of Him.” - MacLaren’s Expositions

We cannot appease / placate / satisfy God by mere outward actions / sacrifice
We cannot do what God commands (justice, mercy, humility) in our own strength
The (unfrenzied) path forward is to rely upon God’s strength – not our own