

Sermon: “God’s Mission Manifesto For Us” January 8, 2023 NSAC

Text: Micah 6:1-8

I. Introduction:

- Pastor Dave read this quote from “*Faith For Exiles*” by David Kinnaman & Mark Matlock: “*God shares his grand mission with us—and wants us to live out his mission with others too—because he loves to love with us.*” —p.179. How does it sit with you that God invites us into His grand mission? How have you seen God do this in your life?

READ Micah 6:1-8 Together, The Lord’s Case Against Israel.

II. Biblical Teaching Questions: Micah 6:1-8

1. Describe the courtroom trial (v.1-2). Who is on the stand? What have they done?
2. What does God remind the people about (v.3-5)? Why do you think God does this?
3. How do the people respond (v.6-7)? How have they misunderstood what pleases God?
4. Pastor Dave quoted commentator Gary V. Smith: “*God is far more interested in the person than any gift one might bring. One’s character and behaviour are what matter to God.*” —p.553. How do we sometimes miss what God really wants?
5. Review the famous V.8—What God Really Wants (v.8). How does/should this form a *Mission Manifesto* for the people of God?
6. Review the three basics Micah 6:8 calls us to:
 - “*To act justly*” ... means to seek right social relationships based on God’s principles of human dignity. How fair are we in our dealings with others? How we treat all kinds of others really matters.
 - “*To love mercy*” ... Beyond “*mercy*” is about practicing *loyalty, lovingkindness, or faithfulness* to God and others—no matter what. How compassionate are we?
 - “*To walk humbly with your God*” ... has to do with our interior life that spills over into how we carry ourselves. Micah says “*to walk humbly*” involves regular repentance and surrender to God—not doing things our own way, but a diligent following after God.

III. Life Application Questions

A. The Call to Protect the poor and vulnerable.

- Pastor Dave said, “*To act justly means we never condone behaviour that takes something that rightfully belongs to another.*” What is our responsibility to the poor and vulnerable in our city? How does *acting justly* impact decisions we make about: property redevelopment, the jobs we take, how and where we shop, and how we think about, relate to, and love our Squamish and Tsleil-Waututh Nation Indigenous neighbours?
- What does God-honouring property ownership look like when many in our community struggle mightily with housing insecurity?

- How do we steward well the resources God has given us without further oppressing those who are not as fortunate materially as we are?
- When we “*act justly*” in our world, how might Jesus shine through?

B. *The Call to Uphold Dignity for all.*

- Pastor Dave said, “*The Christian Story touts the dignity of all people, not because identity and worth are self-determined, but by the simple fact that every human being is made in the image of God.*” How does this challenge/encourage you?
- Pastor Dave talked about the opioid crisis in our city and world. In his 2020 book, “*Overdose: Heartbreak and Hope in Canada’s Opioid Crisis*,” local author, UBC Law Professor, Benjamin Perrin reveals his Christian faith on the second to last page, writes:
 - Q: “... *I remembered back to why I started looking into the opioid crisis in the first place—a prayer to God for a heart of compassion for people affected by it. The same Jesus who I follow laid his hands on people with leprosy when no one else would come near them.*”
 - Then Perrin asks a probing diagnostic question, Q: “*Are more professing Christians willing to similarly love and care for people who use drugs, rather than judge and condemn them?*” — p.232
- It’s a well-known fact that the antidote for addiction is connection. How has God equipped the Christian Church for this better than any other community on the planet?
- How is our commitment to Jesus tested when God places people we consider difficult into our lives? How can we make room in our lives for people different than us?
- How much mercy do we have? For people with whom we disagree? Or, people who annoy us? Or, people who wrong us? Or, people who are so different from us, being in their presence makes us uncomfortable?

C. *Remember all that God has done.*

- How has the global pandemic disrupted our spiritual habits and rhythms with God?
- How can the older generations better pass on the memory of all that God has done for us to younger generations?

D. *The Call to Walk humbly with God.*

- One writer suggests, Q: “*[It’s when] we know what we are and we have no hope of becoming anything better except through the mercy of God.*” — Fenelon, p.53
- What’s it look like to *walk humbly with God*?
- How does us walking humbly with God impact the mission of Jesus through us?