



Series: Exploring Christianity: The Foundations of Our Faith

Title: How should Christians respond to injustice

Passage: Micah 6:6-8

Pastor Tom Yoon

March 15, 2026

Introduction:

- In Psalm 11, David writes:
 - **“If the foundations are destroyed, what can the righteous do?”** Psalm 11:3
 - Have you ever prayed this prayer.
 - When you feel cheated or wronged.
 - When you see a family member, or someone you love, or even a stranger, suffering unfairly.
 - You may wonder what you can do.
 - What can the righteous do, when people have no regard for telling the truth, and doing what’s right, and showing compassion, and honoring God.
 - This morning, we’re going answer this very question, and look at how we can respond to injustice in our world.

- And it’s important we consider this, because James tells us that faith without deeds is dead.
 - Listen to James chapter 2.
 - **“If a brother or sister is poorly clothed and lacking in daily food, and one of you says to them, “Go in peace, be warmed and filled,” without giving them the things needed for the body, what good is that? So also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead.”** James 2:15-17



- We're not saved by works, but caring for others is foundational to the Christian life.
- And so, we need to consider how we can obey this command.

- Let me give you the outline for this morning.
 - First, we'll look at the problem of injustice in the book of Micah, and how it was hurting the people.
 - Second, we'll look at God's response, and what God requires of us when we see injustice in our world.
 - And third, we'll look at practical ways we can respond to God's word, in the face of injustice.
 - The problem of injustice, God's response to injustice, and then practical ways we can respond.
 - That's the outline for today.

- Let's begin by looking at the book of Micah, and the problem of injustice during his time.

- In chapter 1 verse 1, we're told that Micah spoke God's word, during the time of Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah.
 - King Jotham faithfully worshipped God, and lived a righteous life.
 - Unfortunately, his son, Ahaz, turned out to be wicked.
 - Ahaz built alters to foreign gods, and caused many to worship idols.
 - Because of fear, he made alliances with wicked nations.
 - And the Bible says in 2 Kings chapter 16, that Ahaz even burned his son as an offering.
 - And it was during this time that Micah served as God's prophet.



- And to make things worse, there was corruption among the people as well.
- Many wealthy landowners were using their power and money to push struggling families off their land.
 - In those days, if you couldn't pay your bills, you could sell your land, to pay your debt.
 - But the law allowed you to regain your land, in the time of Jubilee.
 - The land would be returned to your family.
 - But instead of returning the land, those with power, kept the inheritance that belonged to others.
 - Micah chapter 2 verse 2 states:
 - **“They covet fields and seize them, and houses, and take them away; they oppress a man and his house, a man and his inheritance.”**
- And these wealthy leaders showed no mercy, even toward women and children.
 - Listen to Micah 2 verse 9:
 - **“The women of my people you drive out from their delightful houses; from their young children you take away my splendor forever.”**
 - Can you imagine, a family, pleading for mercy to stay in their home?
 - “Please, we don't have anywhere to go.”
 - But the leaders didn't care.
 - They unfairly seized the land, and refused to return the people's inheritance.
- They even threatened the people with violence.
 - Listen to chapter 6 verse 12 says:



- **“Your rich men are full of violence...”** Micah 6:12
- They didn’t just practice violence, they were full of violence.

- And if the families brought their case to court, they weren’t given justice, because the wealthy could simply bribe the judge.
 - Listen to Micah 3 verse 11:
 - **“Its heads give judgment for a bribe...”** Micah 3:11
 - Or listen to Micah 7 verse 3:
 - **“Their hands are on what is evil, to do it well; the prince and the judge ask for a bribe...”** Micah 7:3
 - The princes and judges, were bought with bribes.
 - Justice was being sold, and the courts became corrupt.

- On top of this, merchants were cheating farmers out of money, by using dishonest scales.
 - Listen to Micah chapter 6 verse 11:
 - **“Shall I acquit the man with wicked scales and with a bag of deceitful weights...your inhabitants speak lies...”** Micah 6:11.
 - Someone would bring 10 pounds of barley, but with dishonest scales, the merchant would say it only weighed 8 pounds instead of 10.
 - And just like that, the farmer was cheated, and wasn’t paid in full.

- Sadly, even the priests and prophets weren’t faithfully serving the Lord.
 - Again, listen to verse 11.
 - **“Its priests teach for a price; its prophets practice divination for money; yet they lean on the Lord and**



say, “Is not the Lord in the midst of us? No disaster shall come upon us.” Micah 3:11

- Instead of confronting idolatry, and calling for repentance, the religious leaders, the pastors were chasing after money as well.
 - They even had the audacity to say that God was on their side.
 - “No disaster will come to us, because God is with us.”
 - “We are the chosen people of God.”
- And it was during this time, that God called Micah, to rebuke the leaders and the priests and call them to repent.
 - And what made this especially personal for Micah was that, he was living in the very land, where people were getting ripped off.
 - In chapter 1 verse 1, it says that Micah was from Moresheth.
 - That was most likely a rural farming community, just 20 miles southwest of Jerusalem.
 - And it’s in this town, that Micah saw farmers and families being pushed off their land.
 - He most likely saw his neighbors, losing the very land, they worked on for generations.
 - What’s interesting is that Micah also lived during the time, Isaiah the great prophet, was serving in the royal court.
 - If you remember, God used Isaiah, to rebuke King Ahaz to his face.
 - And Isaiah, who lived in the royal city of Jerusalem, also spoke against the injustice in the land.



- But Micah, came from the little town of Moresheth, and he saw injustice right before his eyes, and he boldly spoke up for the people in the land.
- Isaiah was speaking to kings in the palace.
- But Micah was speaking for farmers in the fields.

- That's the background of the book of Micah.

- Now, when we read about injustice in the book of Micah, someone might say:
 - “Well, that was many years ago.”
 - “The world is much different today.”
 - But is it really that different?
 - Even as I was preparing this sermon, I got a call from a scammer, saying I needed to send some money before the fine gets bigger.
 - In fact, according to the Federal Trade Commission, it's estimated that Americans lost 12.5 billion dollars because of scams in 2024.
 - Or just try buying a car.
 - You'll negotiate a price, and at the end, you'll suddenly see more charges appear.
 - Or try taking a cab in a foreign country, and they'll double the price.
 - Or try renting a car, it'll say 50 dollars a day.
 - And when you go to check out, somehow, it becomes 80 dollars a day.
 - I checked to see why the price when up.
 - And the receipt listed, a County Tax, a concession recovery fee, a vehicle license cost, a customer facility charge, a government service fee, and the sales tax.



- Making things sound cheaper than they are, aren't those dishonest scales?
- Or on a more serious note, there are people who're lacking basic needs, because of injustice in our world.
 - Because of corrupt governments, some don't have access to proper medical care, or even clean water.
 - Because of war, people have lost their homes, and have no place to go.
 - Women and children are living in temporary camps without stability.
 - There are even people who're bought and sold into forced labor with no way of escape.
 - There are children, who've been abandoned.
 - There are politicians and even pastors, who serve money, instead of helping others and honoring God.
 - Profit is valued more than integrity.
 - Power is valued more than compassion.
 - And I'm sure, we could add much more to this list.
- When you think about it, the world that Micah was speaking to, isn't very different from the world we live in today.
- And so, we come back to the question at the beginning of this sermon, what can the righteous do, when the foundations are destroyed?
 - Is there any way we can help those who suffer?
 - Is there any way we can stand against in our world?
- The Lord tells us the answer, right here in Micah chapter 6.
 - Let me read chapter 6, starting in verse 6.



- **“With what shall I come before the Lord, and bow myself before God on high? Shall I come before him with burnt offerings, with calves a year old? Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams, with ten thousands of rivers of oil? Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul? He 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?”**
Micah 6:6-8

- What’s interesting is that the leaders responded to Micah, and even asked God, “With what shall I come before the Lord?”
 - Unfortunately, they were still blind to their sin.
 - When you see their response, it sounds like they’re trying to buy God off.
 - “We bribed the officials and they gave us what we wanted.”
 - “Well God, how much do you need?”
 - “How about a young calf as a burnt offering?”
 - “Or, how about 1000 rams and 10,000 rivers of oil.”
 - “That should do it.”
 - “Or God, if that isn’t enough, we’ll even sacrifice our firstborn, just like King Ahaz burnt his son.”
 - They completely missed what God required of them.
 - King David writes:
 - **“For you will not delight in sacrifice, or I would give it; you will not be pleased with a burnt offering. The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.”** Psalm 51:16-17
 - Sacrifice without repentance, is nothing more, than your attempt to make God serve you.



- But our God is a righteous God, and he can't be bought.

Point 1:

- And so, in the face of injustice, before anything else, we first need to repent, and confess we've sinned against a holy God.
 - We have to destroy all the high places in our hearts, and acknowledge our sin.
 - Because if we don't, our acts of justice, and our display of mercy, could easily turn into pride, and judging others, and self-righteousness.
 - That's exactly what happened to the Pharisee, who went to the temple to pray.
 - Do you remember what he prayed?
 - **“God, I thank you that I am not like other men, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I get.”** Luke 19:11-12
 - His good works turned into pride, and self-righteousness.
 - And so, when you see injustice, before taking the speck out of another person, first, we need to take the log out of our own eye.
 - When you see injustice, we need to think to ourselves:
 - “You know what, that's what I did to God.”
 - “I disobeyed his word, I went against his will.”
 - “I put his Son on the cross.”
 - In the face of injustice, we need to repent.

Point 2:

- Second, when we see injustice, we need to practice justice.
 - **“What does the Lord require of you but to do justice...”**



- Now, in the Bible, justice can mean, God’s judgement against evil.
 - Listen to Psalm chapter 9 states:
 - **“But the Lord sits enthroned forever; he has established his throne for justice, and he judges the world with righteousness...”** Psalm 9:7-8
 - And so, justice, is God’s judgment against evil.
 - But we need to remember, it’s not our responsibility to execute punishment on others.
 - God says in Romans 12, **“Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord.”**
 - It’s true that God has ordained, police officers and judges to execute some level of judgment.
 - But final justice belongs to God, and God alone.
 - That means, when Micah says, “do justice,” this doesn’t mean we’re to go around and punish others, or even to force others to repent and bow the knee.
 - Judgement against evil, is reserved for God, and not for us.

- Rather, in our verse, the word justice, has the meaning of doing good, or standing up for the rights of others, to help those in need.
 - Isaiah 1 verse 17 states:
 - **“Learn to do good; seek justice, correct oppression; bring justice to the fatherless, plead the widow's cause.”**
 - Or listen to Psalm 82 verses 3 and 4:
 - **“Give justice to the weak and the fatherless; maintain the right of the afflicted and the destitute. Rescue the weak and the needy; deliver them from the hand of the wicked.”**



- In all these cases, the word justice is used to do what is right, and to help those in need.
- And notice how God command us, to do justice.
 - It's not just about feeling compassion, but acting on compassion.
 - It's not just about listening to others, but helping others.
 - It's not just about being concerned, but sacrificing for others.
 - **“He has told you, O man, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice.”**
- Do you remember the story of Zacchaeus, the tax collector?
 - He cheated people out of money.
 - But after meeting Jesus, do you remember what happened?
 - He repented of his sin, and he decided to give half of his wealth to the poor, and to pay back fourfold, anyone he cheated.
 - He didn't just give lip service to God.
 - He truly repented of his sin, and corrected what he did wrong.
 - He felt sorry, and he acted on his convictions.
- When we see injustice, we're called to repent of our sin.
 - We're called to practice justice in our lives.

Point 3:

- Third, when we see injustice, God requires, that we love kindness.



- If justice is about doing what's right.
 - Loving kindness is about showing compassion, even when someone doesn't deserve it.
 - It's about showing mercy, and extending grace.
 - It's about showing forgiveness.
 - It's about mourning with those who mourning, and weeping with those who weep.
 - To put it simply, to show kindness, is to care.
 - To truly care for others.

- The perfect example of this is from the book of Ruth.
 - Ruth showed loving kindness, by staying with her mother-in-law.
 - And then Naomi showed loving kindness by helping Ruth find a husband.
 - And Boaz showed loving kindness by caring for Ruth and Naomi, and eventually even marrying Ruth.
 - Everyone in the story was showing kindness to one another.
 - And what make this more encouraging is that, this story took place, during a horrible time, when judges were evil, priests were working for money and chopping up bodies, and civil war was taking place in Israel.
 - But in Ruth, the people loved one another.
 - And, it was through this family line, that Jesus was born.

- In the midst of injustice, God calls us to truly care for others, to show kindness.

Point 4:

- When you see injustice, repent of your injustice against God.



- Practice justice, in your life.
- Show loving kindness, by truly caring for others.
- And fourth, when you see in justice, walk humbly with your God.

- To walk humbly with God, means that you submit to God and trust in him, even when you see injustice in the world.
 - It means that you trust him, and his plans, and his will.
 - A person, who doesn't walk humbly with God, will complain when things go wrong, when plans don't work out.
 - They'll walk away from God, when they see evil in the world.
 - In fact, that's what the leaders in Micah's time were doing.
 - In chapter 6 verse 3, God says:
 - **“O my people, what have I done to you? How have I wearied you? Answer me!”**
 - The people were complaining against God.
 - And they weren't faithfully serving the Lord, because they felt God wasn't fulfilling their plans.
 - But a person who walks humbly, will continue to serve the Lord, and trust, even when they don't understand the injustice in the world.
 - Even when they don't fully understand God's plan.

- And isn't Joseph the perfect example of someone who walked humbly with the Lord?
 - He was thrown into a pit and sold as a slave.
 - But instead of complaining, he trusted the Lord, and became the head servant of the house.
 - And when he was wrongly accused and thrown in jail.



- He strived to be a model prisoner, and he became the keeper of the prison, and was put in charge over all the other prisoners.
- And when he was given a chance to hurt his brothers, he declared to them:
- **“As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today.”** Genesis 50:20

- We'll never understand why there's so much evil and suffering in our world.
 - In fact, if we understood the mysteries of God, he wouldn't be God.
 - Can an ant understand, the complexities of a computer chip?
 - Can a baby understand, the complexities of our economic system?
 - Can a second grader understand advanced calculus?
 - Neither can finite beings, understand the great mysteries of a holy and awesome God.
 - We just need to know that he's good.
 - We just need to know that he has a perfect plan.
 - To trust the Lord, and to faithfully serve him even when we don't understand, that's what it means to walk humbly with our God.

- As we close, let me end with a few ways we can apply this to our lives.

Application:

- First, you can do justice, and love kindness with small everyday decisions.



- I know that the need in our world is great.
- And for some of you, God may call you to bring great change in our world.
- But for most of us, that's not God's calling.
- For us, it may be giving a ride, or buying a meal, or spending time with someone who needs a friend.
- Or signing up for the next Start My Starving Children event.
- In fact, isn't that what Jesus did, when he fed the 5000 and fed the 4000?
- He had compassion, and he gave a meal.
- Let's consider:
- "What's one small decision we can make this week, to do justice, and to love kindness?"

- My wife and I noticed that one of our kids was spending their lunch money really fast.
 - And when we asked about it, the kid said there was a kid who didn't have lunch, so my kid would buy him lunch and snacks.
 - I told him, there were programs for that at school.
 - But he said, the kid didn't have food, and the kid asked him:
 - "Why are you so nice to me?"
 - "Because I'm your friend."
 - We also invited him to our church, and I hope he can come some day.

- Second, you can apply this passage by taking responsibility.
 - The responsibility to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly, isn't a necessarily a call for the church to start something, but for each of you to go out.



- Now, as a church, we can organize a group to go to Feed My Starving Children.
- But can you imagine, if our church had to organize a packing party, and then ship the food, and then make connections with communities who need this food, and then understand the laws in our nation and other nations to make this happen?
- Can you imagine the amount of money and resources that would take?
- That's why we have parachurch ministries like Feed My Starving Children, and Safe Families, and Samaritan's Purse, and Crossing Borders, and Prison Fellowship.
- The main purpose of the church is to preach the gospel and to help people grow in faith, hope, and love.
- It's not the main purpose of the church to run a homeless shelter, or to find ways to end poverty, or build an orphanage, or to start a school.
- For all these programs, you'd need a separate board, and a separate staff.
- In fact, when I've seen a church try to take on a big justice project, most of the time, it fails.
- It's because God designed the church, to preach his word, so that, as hearts are changed, his people are able to go out and do justice, and love kindness.
- And so, please consider, how God might be asking you, to do justice, and to love kindness.
- Running an honest business, praying for your students at school, serving in some area in the church, caring for someone in your family, helping at a parachurch ministry.
- How has God uniquely positioned you, to practice justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly?



- Third, you can apply this passage, by remembering all that Christ did for you.

- Let's consider if there's any sin that we need to repent of in our hearts.
 - Are there idols that we need to release?
 - Have we been judgmental against others?
 - Looking down on others, because we feel they're not doing enough?
 - And as we receive God's forgiveness, we'll be able to extend that forgiveness to others.
 - Because it's grace that gives us the power to show justice and mercy to those around us.

- Listen to what Tim Keller writes:
 - *To the degree that the gospel shapes your self-image, you will identify with those in need. You will see their tattered clothes and think: "All my righteousness is filthy rag, but in Christ we can be clothed in his robes of righteousness." When you come upon those who are economically poor, you cannot say to them, "Pull yourself up by your bootstraps!" because you certainly did not do that spiritually. Jesus intervened for you. And you cannot say, "I won't help you because you got yourself into his mess," since God came to earth, moved into your spiritually poor neighborhood, as it were, and helped you even though your spiritual problems were your own fault. (Keller, 103)*

- Consider all that Christ did for you.
 - You were blind to your own sin, you were his enemy, and you were completely lost.



- But Jesus opened your eyes and helped you, when you couldn't help yourself.
- He saved you by his grace.
- And it's because of his grace you're saved.
- And it's this truth that will give you the compassion and love and power you need to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly.