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Title: Required: Walk Humbly

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Text: [Micah 6:8, Philippians 2:3-4](#)

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Muhammad Ali was on an airplane and didn't want to put on his seatbelt. The flight attendant, finally said, "Sir you are going to have to put on your seatbelt for us to take off." "Superman doesn't need any seatbelt." says Ali. The flight Attendant without missing a beat said, "Superman doesn't need any airplane either." A good dose of

humility goes a long way doesn't it?

We are wrapping up a series called Required by looking at the three requirements of God that the prophet Micah listed around 700 BCE in this familiar piece of scripture.

"He has told you, O mortal, 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 6:8*

These powerful requirements come from a disagreement between God and the people of Israel. If you remember, the people of Israel have offered God everything materially they can think of, all of their riches, all of their good, even their firstborn children. And God says NO, none of those things means anything to me. Here is what I want

I want you to Do Justice, to be a voice those who have been oppressed, those who have been left unprotected and anyone treated as less than God's child.

I want you to love kindness, to know that you are loved and that your call as my child is to share that love unconditionally with others, a love that is life-giving to all people.

I want you to walk humbly with me.

If you are going to truly live as God desires you to live, these are three requirements of our faith and our living.

How many people do you know are good at “talking the talk” but come up short when it comes to “walking the walk”?

For followers of Jesus, we might say that walking the walk, walking humbly with God is identifying with Jesus, identifying with the life and the mission of Jesus.

The Apostle Paul says it like this in a word to the church in the community of Philippi, a church Paul loved deeply.

“Do Nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others.” Philippians 2:3-4

I don’t know about you, but that sounds about as countercultural as it gets/It sounds counter to much of the advice we receive today/how many books are sold and read each year about bettering ourselves and promoting our own interests/In some ways, social media exists so that we can not only look to our own interests, but share our interests with a wide audience

We have been led to believe that we are the only ones who are writing our story of life AND that our story exists on its own

Someone once told me that there are two true things in life: There is a God. You are Not God.

Walk Humbly.
Regard Others as Better Than Yourselves.
Look to the Interests of Others.

When I first read these texts or hear these words, my first thought is that these are people living in different times and different places, that this ethic of living would never work in the 21st century. But then I read this from Paul and it changes the way I look at this.

“Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus.” Philippians 2:5

It means that what Micah wrote before Jesus and what Paul is writing after Jesus is reflected in the way Jesus lived. This idea of humility is a way of living where Jesus’ own faith found its ground/Following Jesus requires that our faith finds its ground in the places where Jesus’ faith found its ground. That we root our lives in a way of living that reflects Jesus’ way of living

Gary Morsch is a doctor and is one of the founders of Heart to Heart, an organization that delivers medical supplies and more to impoverished countries and areas in needs of disaster relief. He went to visit Mother Teresa's mission in Calcutta, India. He and team arrived to deliver medicine and care for patients at the Home for the Dying and Destitute. Gary walked in with a stethoscope around his neck and introduced himself as a physician who was ready to help the sisters. The sister said, "Follow me please," and proceeded to escort him through the wards of the dying people to the kitchen where there was a large pile of old garbage. She said to him, "We need you to take this garbage to the dump." The dump is several blocks down the street. In an instant, the doctor became a garbage man. Gary made trip after trip to the dump, carrying bags of old garbage, resenting the fact that he had come all the way Calcutta not to provide medicine or care to patients as a doctor but to haul bag after bag of garbage. After several hours of doing this he noticed a small sign with Mother Teresa's famous words. "*We can do no great things, only small things with great love.*"

It was then that Gary understood why he had been assigned garbage duty. It was God's way of teaching him humility, humility rooted in serving others.

The world found the early church to be different. The Roman world was curious about this new movement of Jesus followers organized and conducted themselves. The Empire, the world organized itself around family, class, economics, and gender. The church organized itself around love of God and love of one another, a spirit of humility that made room for God and self-sacrifice that allowed them to put others first. A spirit of humility that allowed them to receive the grace of God and extend the grace of God to others. The church and the followers of Jesus stood out for the way they lived differently than others. True humility is shown through how we demonstrate concern for others and how we serve others.

Back in youth ministry days, we started each youth group with singing thankfully led by someone other than me. One of the songs we sang was *Humble Thyself: Humble thyself in the sight of the Lord/for the Lord will lift you up*. I always believed that was a powerful powerful witness that a room full of teens were singing about what it is to have the same mind, the same spirit that was in Christ Jesus and singing the reminder of walking humbly with God and also finding true life.

There is a story about a cemetery two headstones that sit side by side. Both deceased were successful professional people. One of the headstones read like a billboard. It had all his academic and professional accomplishments, and organizations he had been a part of. The headstone was large because it needed to be to fit all that the deceased had wanted on there. The second

headstone was small, almost engulfed by the other headstone. The person had been successful in the world's eyes and had accomplished just as much or more than the person buried beside them. This second headstone was small, almost engulfed by the larger one next to it. It bore simply the words from Micah 6:8 "Do Justice, Love Kindness, Walk Humbly with your God."

Let the same mind and the same spirit that was in Christ Jesus be in you.

If you want to know how where to start, Micah points the way.

For what does the Lord Require? Do Justice, Love Kindness, and Walk Humbly with God.

Let us Pray.