

“The Battle for Our Nation”

Micah 6:8

There is a battle for our nation, a cultural battle. It is a battle of faith versus the secular; the moral versus the immoral. It is a battle of embracing our national heritage or rejecting it. It may play out in economic philosophy or political beliefs, but it comes down to good versus evil; Christ versus anti-Christ. This is a battle that has been going on for decades, but it is now gaining serious ground in various movements and in our educational system. As followers of Christ, we must win this battle through living out our faith in our everyday lives.

President Abraham Lincoln said in an 1863 proclamation:

“We have been the recipients of the choicest bounties of heaven. We have been preserved, these many years, in peace and prosperity. We have grown in numbers, wealth and power, as no other nation has ever grown. But we have forgotten God. We have forgotten the gracious hand which preserved us in peace, and multiplied and enriched and strengthened us; and we have vainly imagined, in the deceitfulness of our hearts, that all these blessings were produced by some superior wisdom and virtue of our own. Intoxicated with unbroken success, we have become too self-sufficient to feel the necessity of redeeming and preserving grace, too proud to pray to the God that made us! It behooves us, then to humble ourselves before the offended Power, to confess our national sins, and to pray for clemency and forgiveness.”

The sixteenth president was stating that because of our prosperity, we have become arrogant and proud, forgetting our God and Creator from whom our blessings and prosperity come. It sounds eerily familiar to our nation today.

Addressing the responsibility of American citizens to select their leaders, the first Supreme Court Justice, John Jay, said:

“Providence has given to our people the choice of their rulers, and it is the duty, as well as the privilege and interest, of our Christian nation to select and prefer Christians for their rulers.”

We are given the privilege to elect our leaders who run our government, and we should elect men and women who are believers; who govern by Judeo-Christian principles.

In Israel, the people had left God, and were living immoral lifestyles. They went through the motions religiously, but it did not affect their everyday living; it was not genuine. The prophet, Micah, confronted his people, and they sarcastically asked, *“Would God be impressed with thousands of rams, with buckets and barrels of olive oil? Would He be moved if I sacrificed my firstborn child, my precious baby, to cancel my sin?”* (v. 7). They were asking if God would be impressed with a lot of religious stuff even sacrificing their firstborn child. They missed the point which is God wants our love and obedience, not religious

rituals. Micah reduced all the commandments down to three statements of what God wanted from His people. He told them: *"...He has told you what is good and what it is the Lord requires of you..."* (v. 8a):

1. ***"To act justly..."*** (6:8b). God wanted His people to *"act justly,"* meaning to do what is right, what is honest, and what is good. It is the opposite of injustice. Sadly, many were treating others unjustly, unfairly. There was injustice more than justice. There was no justice for widows and the poor. Isaiah 56:1 says: *"Be just and fair to all," says the Lord. 'Do what is right and good..."* You desire justice when you go to court, and you want to be treated justly or fairly at work or at school. Knowing God, the great Judge, gives us the ability to *"act justly."* Having God's Spirit in our hearts gives us the desire to be good and just to others, because God is good and just to us.
2. ***"To love faithfulness..."*** (6:8c). Some translations say, *"to love mercy"* or *"kindness."* The people of Israel were not showing faithfulness or mercy to others. Micah said to the leaders: *"You hate good and love evil"* (3:2a). God is merciful toward us. He is faithful and kind. God told His people: *"I am the LORD, the merciful and gracious God. I am slow to anger and rich in unfailing love and faithfulness"* (Exodus 34:6). Paul told believers in Ephesus: *"But God is so rich in mercy, and He loved us so very*

much, that even while we were dead because of our sins, He gave us life..." (Ephesians 2:4-7). When God's Spirit is in control of our life, we will be merciful toward others, because of the mercy that our heavenly Father has shown us. Do not let sin and indifference harden your heart. Worship God and praise Him for His mercy, His faithfulness. You will be able *"to love mercy"* when you experience God's mercy.

3. ***"To walk humbly with your God..."*** (6:8d). The people of Israel were not walking humbly with God, but were walking contemptuously away from Him. Pride is an attitude that says: "I don't need help. I don't need God." Humility is a mindset that says: "I need help. I need God." James said: *"Humble yourselves before the Lord, and He will exalt you"* (4:10). When you humble yourself before God, saying that you need Him and His help, He will exalt you or bless you. The people of Israel were proud and arrogant, thinking that all that they had they had got by themselves. They did not acknowledge God's provision. Micah told his people that God did not want religious rituals, but that He wanted their love, worship, and obedience. Start everyday with the prayer: "Father, I submit to You today."

As individuals and citizens, let us *"act justly," "love mercy,"* and *"walk humbly with...God."* We do that by giving our lives to Jesus Christ, confessing Him as our God

and Savior. Ask God to turn our hearts back to Him, to turn our nation back to Him. Pray that the battle for our nation will be won by those who “act justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with God.”