

# SUMMER QUARTER SUNDAY SCHOOL 2015

## THEME: GOD DEMANDS JUSTICE

### UNIT II– APPEALS TO THE UNJUST FOR JUSTICE

## “THE INTERROGATION OF AN UNGRATEFUL NATION”



### Sunday School Lesson No. VII – July 19, 2015

Rev. Frank A Davis, III – Pastor-Teacher

**Lesson Text:** Micah 6:1-8

**Motto Text:** Micah 6:8, (KJV) *“He hath shewed thee, O man, what is good; and what doth the LORD require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God?”*  
(NLT), *“No, O people, the LORD has told you what is good, and this is what he requires of you: to do what is right, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God.”*

**Required Reading:** Micah 6

**Reliable Resources:** Union Gospel Press Expositor and Illuminator; Precepts for Living (UMI); Word-Search 10 Electronic Library System; Standard Lesson Commentary; The Tim LaHaye Prophecy Bible; The Outline Bible by H. L. Willmington; Children’s Ministry Resource Bible; Jeremiah Study Bible Notes; Logos Bible Software

### LESSON INTRODUCTION

In the previous chapters Micah has exposed the selfish, sinful situations of God’s special saints! Those who had been called by His name and set apart to represent Him to a pagan society. What a let-down by God’s timeless tenants of the Promised Land. Condemnation had been pronounced upon their corruption, but mercy was still being extended. But one might say, “They are not that bad, are they?” The acts of worship were evident by those who observed from the outside. The Temple and city of Jerusalem appear to be as busy as ever. The priest and prophets were extremely active and the economy was booming and robust. Surely God is with His people because of the great prosperity!

According to the Bible Exposition Commentary, “The sins of the people were hidden behind a veneer of religious activity – routine worship that didn’t come from their hearts...the Prophet Isaiah told the people that the nation was sick from head to foot (Isa. 1:5-6) but wouldn’t admit it, and that their ‘worship’ was nothing more than ‘trampling’ the temple courts (v. 12).”

Beloved, it is from this setting that we enter the text for our consideration this week – Micah 6. “**The Interrogation of an Ungrateful Nation.**” Our Anticipated Power Points are:

- **Jehovah’s Request. Micah 6:1-5**
- **Jewish Response. Micah 6:6-7**
- **Just Reply. Micah 6:8**

### LESSON OUTLINE

#### “The Interrogation of an Ungrateful Nation”

#### I. Jehovah’s Request. Micah 6:1-5

##### A. The earthly witness. vss. 1-2

The Lord Jehovah is presented by Micah as bringing Israel to court and He summons the mountains and hills as His witnesses to hear the case. But why the hills and mountains? Because they have always been present and their presence is silent, but if the people could see them, they could also see and witness the actions of God’s tenants.

**Illustration:** Upon a recent visit to Seattle, WA and several seaport cities in Alaska, I noted Mt. Rainier and a range of other mountains and great hills were overshadowing our journey. It was as if they were witnesses of our journey. Likewise the hills and mountains of Palestine were witnesses of all that both God and his people were doing!

**B. An eager request. vs. 3 (Read the NLT version)**

*“Why are you tired of me?” asked the Lord. What have I done to you that makes you want to not be faithful to me? How have I burdened you, house of Israel?*

**C. The earnest testimony. vss. 4-5**

Jehovah testifies of His great faithfulness to Israel, which is verified by the witness of scripture and history.

1. God delivered Israel from Egyptian bondage by instituting the Passover and exalting them by several signs and miracles. (Exodus 12 – 15)
2. God raised excellent leadership representatives. (Moses—their law-giving leader raised by God. Aaron—who interceded as God’s high priest. And Miriam—the prophetess whom the Lord raised in Exodus 15 to lead the women’s ministry of praise and dance!)
3. Jehovah further testifies that throughout the wilderness journey to Canaan, He kept a great hand of protection on the nation. He uses an illustration of how Balaam was paid to pronounce a curse upon them by Balak the King of Moab. God turned his pronouncement into continuous blessings upon His people. (Read Numbers 22 – 24). Beloved, as it is stated in the Bible Knowledge Commentary, “Another great event in the nation’s life was the journey from Shittim, the Israelites’ last campsite east of the Jordan River (Josh. 3:1), to Gilgal, the first encampment after the miraculous crossing of the Jordan River (Josh. 4:18-19). In all these things God had not burdened His people. Rather He was their Protector and Defender, giving them grace over and over.”

**II. Jewish Response. Micah 6:6-7**

Micah responds on behalf of the people to the Lord in a way that exposes the arrogance in their hearts. The response was meant to show the hard-heartedness of the people and it is expressed in the hyperbole of their response!

**A. Read vs. 6.** Question: Can we honor God by keeping the sacrificial laws to the extreme? (God had an atoning sacrificial system which Israel knew well.)

**B.** Can we appease Jehovah with extreme liberality? *“with thousands of rams or with ten thousands of rivers of oil?”* Again, extreme gifts or sacrifice didn’t impress God, who *“looks not at the outward appearance, but upon the heart.”*

**C.** Can we appease God by human sacrifice? Pagans would sacrifice their first-born as an extreme gift to their demon gods, but this was totally unacceptable to Jehovah. Israel would not face God’s reality, but sought to cover their sins and not repent and take personal responsibility. The Jewish response was totally unacceptable!

**III. Just Reply. Micah 6:8**

Micah reminds the ungrateful nation of what is acceptable to God with the just reply of verse 8. It is summarized in three phases, and not in dead rituals which cost them nothing. Note:

**A. Act justly – be fair in their dealings with others.**

**B. Love mercy – loyal love, carrying through on their commitment to meet other’s needs.**

**C. Walk humbly with God, (fellowship with Him in modesty, without arrogance)."**

Or as I Samuel 15:22 says, *“To obey is better than sacrifice.”*

**CLOSING:**

God is interrogating our ungrateful nation today. Not at the level of Washington, D. C. or our states’ capitals, but at the level of every individual’s hearts. Beloved, what will your response be as the Lord interrogates you concerning your response to His faithful benevolence? Romans 5:6-8, *“For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. For scarcely for a righteous man will one die: yet peradventure for a good man some would even dare to die. But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.”*

---

**Bibleway Missionary Baptist Church, New Orleans, LA & Little Bethel Baptist Church, Amite, LA**

**Mailing Address: Post Office Box 19768, New Orleans, LA 70179-0768**

**Phone: (504) 486-7876**

**Email: [bible32@bellsouth.net](mailto:bible32@bellsouth.net)**

**Website: [www.thestudyhour.com](http://www.thestudyhour.com)**

**Radio Broadcast: WABL AM (Amite City), Saturday, 3:00 p.m.**

**TV Telecast: WHNO TV-Channel 20, Sunday, 6:30 a.m.**

**Looking Ahead:**

**July 26, 2015**

**Micah 7:14-20**



**Noonday Bible Study will not be held in the month of July. Noonday study will resume on Wednesday, August 5<sup>th</sup>.**