

What's So Great About Following Jesus? - The Great Requirement
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July 10, 2016

Introduction

The Lord is calling us to be great. He has clearly outlined what our Great Requirement is in the book of Micah. Specifically, chapter 6, verse 8. "He has showed you, O man, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God." (Micah 6:8 NIV)

How do we achieve greatness in our spiritual lives? God has given us the guidelines we should follow in this verse. He has shown us what is good. The great news is, this isn't an insurmountable task! He keeps it pretty simple for us simple humans...

Act justly.

Love mercy.

Walk humbly with your God.

Digging Deeper

- Act justly. What does this mean? Scripture tells us we should work to take care of the widow, the orphan, the poor and the powerless. We fulfill this part of the Great Requirement when we begin "to do what is right" both locally and globally. No, you can't do everything for everyone. But you can do ONE thing. You can befriend someone who is lonely. Hold someone's hand while they cry. Help fund a worthy cause. Action step: Take some time to discuss what you or your group can do to carry out this great requirement. Did you know our church feeds the hungry downtown every 3rd Thursday evening of the month? Did you know there are men, women and children in our community that are in need of mentors? You can purchase a mission share to raise money for local and global mission trips that our church supports. Call the church office or visit www.myLHUMC.net to search out current servant opportunities. There are many ways you and your family can be involved in acting justly.
- Love mercy. This one seems simple enough, right? But wait, there's more. To love mercy is not simply to have it, but rather to think of this like God thinks of us, to delight in giving people what they don't deserve. Sound familiar? If He has given us this great (undeserved) gift, aren't we called as Christians to do the same? Psalm 145:8 says: "The Lord is merciful and compassionate, slow to get angry and filled with unfailing love." Is there someone in your life that you find it difficult to love in this way? How can you use this week's sermon to re-think your perspective regarding this Great Requirement? Mercy isn't just for you and me. Isn't it possible to extend the same compassion to that person that God has offered freely and lovingly to you?
- Walk humbly with your God. Now here's where we get to the heart of the Great Requirement. If you can accomplish this step, then you will be better equipped to act justly and love mercy and truly begin to live a Christ-like lifestyle. When walking humbly with God, we approach all activities with the mindset of "but by the grace of God go I". Can you think of a time in your life

when you struggled with letting His wisdom direct your thoughts and actions? Are you facing this challenge now? What can you do differently each day to ensure that every decision you make is fueled by this powerful thought: What would Jesus do?

Conclusion

So, what's so great about following Jesus? Fulfilling the Great Requirement of acting justly, loving mercy and walking humbly with our God enables us to live lives of greatness in obedience to our great God.

Serve others. Pray for a humble heart. And remember, to God be the glory.