

Micah 6:8 CCH All Age Service 5th January 2020

V8 I wonder what you want (hopes) for 2020?

- New start in some way: New friends sch. Adults: special friend.
- Hope to see solution problem: bad back or difficult job.
- New Diet/fitness Regime. Ever made NYR? ... Ever broke NYR?

All Good. But What does **God** want for us in 2020?

- Our verse for today could be a helpful summary v8.
- Did one **verse** before: Micah 5:2 Christmas prophecy.
- Saw: **Name**. **Date**. **3 cycles** of Judgement & Hope. Last verse. **This verse**.
- This is a good New Year verse.
- Perhaps helpful to remember God may be more interested in how we do things than we get excited about specifics. Which car, job, who to marry. (▲ Clarence! Forget green pastures: Specific blade of grass)

So what does God want?

These verses talk about something **he doesn't want**. And **does want**. Battleships.

1) WHAT GOD WANTS FROM US IN 2020 IS **NOT RELIGION**

- Let me let you into a secret- People bored with God. V1-3.
- They thought perhaps what God wanted was religious duty.
- Just to explain, Xty is a religion. But talking about turning it into RELIGION.
 - V6.
 - Burnt offerings- calf fattened up whole year. Sacrificed. (save all your pocket money up for a year)
 - Thousands of rams!
 - Ten thousand rivers of oil!
 - Ultimate sacrifice (of course not- other neighbours told off for doing that)
 - Though many people sacrifice their kids
 - God doesn't want you to turn Xty into an extreme sport that makes you more impressive than next person.
 - HE doesn't need you to pull out your online banking app and give the biggest gift.

- Today- **superwoman**- perfect house, perfect children and perfect job, all same time maintaining perfect body!
- **Superman**-
 - Pull out your chequebook!
 - He wants your heart! Not your time or your money!
 - It's actually harder to give.
- **Kids**-
 - Want all your pocket money? No. Do learn joy of giving.
- Not religion. He wants relationship.
- ▲ **Martin Luther** monk 500 years ago. Walked all the way to Rome from Germany. Set of steps there called **Scala Sancti**. Brought from Jerusalem!
 - People were encouraged to say the Lord's Prayer on their knees
 - Told his dead relatives would be helped by it
 - Martin Luther tried so hard to get to God by good works, but he never could. Realised not working.
- Is that what God wants?
 - No. v8.
 - Simple.
 - And yet That makes it even harder!
- Have you got that?
 - Perhaps misunderstood.
 - Do vs Done.
- Relearn!
 - God has paid it! He's done it all. V3-5.
 - He's done it all, now enjoy being in a relationship
 - CLUE from this Song....

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ayQUBo0FGTs>

2) WHAT GOD WANTS FROM US IN 2020 IS RELATIONSHIP

- 3 little phrases: *Act justly, Love Mercy, Walk humbly with your God.*
- Word Love there in 2nd, but actually behind each of them. **3 hearts**.
- This is a command to Love. Love God, love neighbour.
- One of several summaries of the Law in Bible.
 - In gospels, J asked greatest command: Love Lord God all h, m, s, s. and love your neighbour as yourself.
- This verse also asking us to love. Great place to start 2020.
- 3 Things- actually all intertwined like rope with **3 strands**. All 3.
- Let's think about each:
 - **ACT JUSTLY. Do the right thing. (loving thing=right thing)**
 - Has to do with our actions & justice.
 - God is very concerned for people he has made.
 - Particularly those vulnerable.
 - Who has little brother/sister?
 - Who has people at work who look up to them to know what to do?
 - Who knows someone who's struggling at the moment?
 - (that's why
 - Well are you going to do the right thing?
 - People at the time not doing this (6:10-12)
 - Ppl getting their money through shifty ways
 - Weren't being honest or truthful
 - Stealing land**Do the right thing!**
 - **LOVE MERCY. Do the kind thing. (loving thing=kind thing)**
 - Word mercy is faithfulness or loyalty.
 - God's love for us is like a loving husband
 - Never leaves us or forsakes us, even when we make him sad.
 - Kids: Think of yr friends at school. Faithful friend?
 - Married, getting married 2020. Faithful. Cultivate your marriage- spend time cherishing each other. God put you together, day you stop loving one

another is the day God stops loving you.
Resources.

- Who has parents who are alive?
 - And love to do it! **Love Mercy.** (Mercy's name!)
- **WALK HUMBLY WITH YOUR GOD. Do the godly thing. (loving thing=godly thing)**
 - Walk- (few of us met in Hinchingsbrooke). Steady (except saw seal in the pond! 100s miles from sea!)
 - Humbly. That's not something we need to put on. Just need to think about what our lives would be like without God!
 - Look upwards. And this is the source of the other ones.
- No wonder this section an accusation. Bad news!
 - This section is part of a rebuke! A telling off.
 - V1-2. Accusation.
- And this will be humbling for us.
 - Since Christmas Since new year.
 - But also... Good news.
- Well the wonderful news of Christianity is that Jesus has done what is required.
 - He perfectly lived this life.
 - He did what was right
 - He did what was loving
 - He always walked humbly with his God.
 - He has done it for us.
 - And so this requirement is not a qualification for gaining Jesus, but in the gospel, it's a description of a life that is forgiven by him He sent his son to do it. Lost coin- he came after us. He came to rescue what was lost! What Martin Luther discovered.
 - He sent his Holy Spirit to help us.
Pick one scenario on DIG DEEPER sheet and help each other!