

REQUIRED

The one thing that seems harder than developing a New Year's resolution and keeping it is deciding what I should be doing right now. Sometimes, it feels easier to know what NOT to do instead of trying proactively to figure out what TO DO.

It's a real struggle. One of the best ways to develop this skill is to constantly evaluate decisions and actions to see if they are helpful or unhelpful to your overall goal. As Christians, our primary focus should be living faithfully to our Lord and bringing glory to his name. However, sometimes we get days, weeks, months, and even years into the future and realize we have gone off course. Usually, this is because we have stopped being proactive and have become reactive. There is good news. I believe Scripture gives us some help with this.

Micah 6:8

He has told you, O man, 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?

Many years ago, God was conversing with his people, who incidentally were off course, through the prophet Micah. As he exhorts them to faithfulness rather than rebellion, he reveals what he expects of his children. You would think it would be a list as long as your arm. However, it includes only three things.

1. Justice: Sometimes used as a legal term, justice in this sense points to a righteousness characterized and defined by God. This righteousness is clearly revealed to us in his word.

Reflection Question: Is my current action right in the eyes of God? Where is the answer in Scripture?

2. Kindness: HESED is used frequently throughout the Old Testament to describe God's lovingkindness, mercy, goodness, faithfulness, love, and acts of kindness. Moreover, this quality is commanded of his image bearers.

Reflection Question: Is this loyal and loving to my fellow man and his creation?

3. Humility: Humility is yielding to God's supreme authority. Micah describes it as an obedient attitude that must exist while walking WITH God. Conversely, walking apart and away from him is rebellion and the opposite of humility.

Reflection Question: Am I living right now in submission to my King and walking WITH him?

When you begin a new action or notice a shift in your emotions and attitude throughout the day, ask yourself these three questions. If the answer is "yes" to these reflection questions and backed by Scripture, keep doing what you are doing! If your answer at any time is "no," then stop and pivot until you can say "yes."

There is a great gift in the Word of God. He has explained clearly what he expects of his children. Moreover, he empowers them to live faithfully to him (2 Peter 1:3). It's not a hopeless or impossible task. As we step into a new year, it would be helpful to make Micah 6:8 our lens to evaluate each of our attitudes and actions. Let us remain proactive in our lives of faith.

Shalom,
Ryan