**Micah 6:1–8**

**Discussion Questions and Topics**

1. In verses 4–5, God calls his people to remember what he did for them in the past––his constant and consistent faithfulness to them as his people. Such a command to “remember” was consistent in the Old Testament (e.g. Deuteronomy 6:12, Deuteronomy 8:11; Psalm 103:2) and is picked up again in the New Testament (e.g. Luke 22:19). One of the main reasons God’s people are constantly being commanded to “remember” is because they are so prone to forget what God has done for them and live without reference to it. The same is true for us.

 What are some ways in which you find yourself prone to forget what God has done for you? What is the effect when you live without conscious reference to God’s work for and in you? What are some ways you can consciously remind yourself of all that God has done for you in and through Christ? What are practical ways to “preach the gospel to yourself”?

2. In verses 6–7, Micah answers asks a series of rhetorical questions about what God wants from his people. The assumed answers are all negative––what God desires from his people are ultimately *none* of the things Micah mentions in verses 6–7. This is a reminder that God is not impressed with mere religious activity and formalism. Jesus himself makes much the same point when he rebukes the hypocrisy of the Pharisees (Matthew 23:23–28) and says that “this people honors me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me” (Mark 7:6).

 Think about your worship of God. How often do you find yourself honoring God with your lips while your heart is far from him? (This can be especially hard when we’ve come from a religious background where *appearing* the right way in worship is the measure of godliness). Are you more concerned with what others think of your worship of God than what God thinks? How do you struggle with this kind of hypocrisy? What are some ways you can counter this tendency?

3. In contrast to verses 6–7, verse 8 outlines what God really desires from his people in their worship: right actions (“do justice”) and right affections (“love kindness”) which flow from a right relationship with God (“walk humbly with your God”).

 How do these things differ from the religious formalism in verses 6–7? What would happen if you were to cut out one of these aspects of “true religion” in verse 8?

(e.g. What if you said you had a right relationship with God but it didn’t result in right actions? Or, what if you had lots of “right actions” but did not also have “right affections”?)

Why is it necessary to begin with walking humbly with God at the center of true worship? What does it look like to not only be a worshipper not only on Sunday but also on Monday–Saturday?