

## MONDAY DEVOTION - GATEKEEPERS WORKCAMP 2017

**Micah 6:6-8: With what shall I come before the Lord, and bow myself before God on high? Shall I come before him with burnt-offerings, with calves a year old? Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams, with tens of thousands of rivers of oil? Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul? He has told you, O mortal, 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?**

Welcome to Gatekeepers Workcamp 2017! You are now a part of an 26-year tradition of churches coming together to assist homeowners in the Rocky Mount community. This week you will help to build, not only homes, but also relationships, love, and hope. In the end, you will know that you have shared God's love and given much of yourself for the sake of a neighbor—and for the building of God's Kingdom. Inspired by the words of the prophet Micah, this week's devotions will help us to explore the “parts” that we are called to “assemble” to build a life that is pleasing to God.

Micah prophesied during the 8<sup>th</sup> century BC during a time when most of the known world was threatened by the advancing Assyrian Empire. The Assyrians were particularly brutal to the lands they conquered, destroying cities and torturing people as they expanded their reign. In fear of losing their way of life, many Israelites turned to a strict religious adherence but forgot that their faith also called them to treat others with compassion. God speaks through Micah to remind the people that their religious observances were not pleasing to God if they went out from the Temple to cheat others in the marketplace, to neglect the poor and vulnerable, and to treat one another with contempt.

Micah declares in very plain language that ritual observance alone is not enough to please God, that God also wants to see a change of heart. “What does the Lord require?” Micah asks. The answer is simple, “do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with God.” Simple, yes. But easy? We all know that as simple as this sounds, living this way is not easy at all.

This week, we will explore some of the biblical passages that help us to understand more fully what it means to live as the Lord requires. And through our work, we will begin the challenging task of putting together the pieces of a life that is pleasing to God—to do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly.

Think about the people the world admires as those who “have it all.” What does our culture tell us that we need in order to have a “good life”? How is that different from the criteria God considers to be part of a “good life”? Although the requirements Micah lists sound simple, why are they so difficult for us to do? How can we begin to put Micah's instructions into practice this week?

Pray for the week ahead. Pray that your crew will be safe and accomplish its work. Pray that God will help you to develop new friendships and to gain new insights. Pray that you will be open to allowing God to work in and through your life and that you will be able to demonstrate God's love to your homeowner, to your other crew members, to our community. Pray for your homeowner, that God will bless them and help them to see God's love at work in their lives this week and in the future.