

1 I Can't Get No Satisfaction

- Micah 6:1-8

2 Scripture

- [To Micah] Listen to what the LORD says:
 - "Stand up,
 - plead your case before the mountains;
 - let the hills hear what you have to say.
 - Hear, O mountains, the LORD's accusation; listen, you everlasting foundations of the earth.
 - For the LORD has a case against his people; he is lodging a charge against Israel.
 - My people, what have I done to you?
 - How have I burdened you? Answer me.

3 Scripture

- I brought you up out of Egypt and redeemed you from the land of slavery.
- I sent Moses to lead you, also Aaron and Miriam.
- My people, remember what Balak, king of Moab, counseled and what Balaam, son of Beor, answered.
- Remember [your journey] from Shittim to Gilgal, that you may know the righteous acts of the LORD."
- [Israel's Response]
 - With what shall I come before the LORD and bow down before the exalted God?
 - Shall I come before him with burnt offerings, with calves a year old?

4 Scripture

- [Israel's Response]
 - Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams, with ten thousand rivers of oil?
 - Shall I offer my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?
- [Micah's Response]
 - He has shown 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.

5 Mick Jagger

- This year on July 26th, Mick Jagger turns 80 years old.
- As some of you know, Mick is an English singer and songwriter who has achieved international fame as the lead vocalist and one of the founding members of the rock band Rolling Stones.
- In 1965, he and Keith Richards wrote the hit song "(I Can't Get No) Satisfaction."
- Even as an old man, Mick Jagger dances like a chicken and still sings, "I try, and I try, and I try, and I try, I can't get no satisfaction!"

6 Ain't Got No Satisfaction

- After all these years, Jagger still can't get no ... satisfaction.
- Professor Author Brooks says that as we move through life,
 - "satisfaction — the joy from fulfilling our wishes or expectations — is fleeting.
 - No matter what we achieve, see, acquire, or do; it seems to slip from our grasp. ... no wonder satisfaction is the greatest paradox of human life.

- We crave it, believe we can get it, glimpse it, and maybe even experience it for a brief moment, and then it vanishes. But we never give up on our quest to get and hold on to it."
- Or, as Mick Jagger puts it, "I try, and I try, and I try, and I try."

7 I try, and I try, and I try!

- I think Professor Brooks is on to something here.
- Happiness has a tendency to slip from our grasp so quickly.
- We crave it, we find it, we feel it ... and then it disappears. Poof!
- And then we go right back to looking for it again.
- It seems we are always in search of satisfaction.
- Speaking personally, before I stopped ignoring God, I was moody, temperamental, and depressed. Why?
- I tried, and I tried, but I had no satisfaction!

8 The Prophet Micah

- "Listen to what the LORD says," said the prophet Micah to the people of Jerusalem (Micah 6:1).
- He was from the rural village of Moresheth in the land of Judah, and his book begins with prophecies of doom directed toward Israel and Judah.
- Because the leaders of the people "despise justice and distort all that is right," Micah said that "Jerusalem will become a heap of rubble" (3:9, 12).

9 The Prophet Micah

- So then, what was going on in Jerusalem?
- The leaders were looking for satisfaction.

- Jerusalem's "leaders judge for a bribe," says the prophet,
- "her priests teach for a price, and
- her prophets tell fortunes for money" (3:11).
- Micah saw that people in power were trying to get ahead — in business, government, and religion — and they were using corrupt and unjust practices.

10 The Prophet Micah

- In particular, rich landowners were exploiting vulnerable people in the community.
 - "They covet fields and seize them," said Micah.
 - "They defraud a man of his home, a fellowman of his inheritance" (2:2).
- In Jerusalem, the rich were getting richer, and the poor were getting poorer.
- And this was happening on a playing field that was anything but level.

11 The Prophet Micah

- But Micah was not interested only in exposing injustice.
- He predicted that a shepherd-king would arise to rule Judah.
- This new ruler would come from the little town of Bethlehem; he would be a rural savior who was not part of the wealthy Jerusalem establishment.
- "But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are from of old, from ancient times." (Micah 5:2 NIV)

12 The Prophet Micah

- Then, the prophet accused the people of not being satisfied with God's goodness to them.

- "I brought you up out of Egypt and redeemed you from the land of slavery" (Micah 6:1, 4). Are you not satisfied?
- "I sent Moses to lead you; also Aaron and Miriam" (v. 4). Are you not satisfied?
- "Remember your journey from Shittim to Gilgal," that is, crossing the Jordan River into the promised land (v. 5). Are you not satisfied?

13 The Prophet Micah

- God brought the people out of slavery, gave them wise and powerful leaders, and brought them into the promised land.
- And yet, the people of Israel and Judah can't get no ... satisfaction!
- No matter what they achieve or attain, they want more.
- Instead of enjoying the good life that God has given them, they resort to corruption and injustice to satisfy their wishes, expectations, lust, and greed.
- In other words, "The LORD has a case against his people," said Micah; "he is lodging a charge against Israel" (v. 2).

14 The Prophet Micah

- These were hard words for the people to hear, and some of them immediately felt guilty.
- They asked the prophet what they could do to make things better.
 - "With what shall I come before the LORD," they asked, "and bow down before the exalted God?"
 - Shall I come before him with burnt offerings, with calves a year old?" (v. 6).
- No, said says Micah, forget about the amount or quality of your burnt offerings or donations.

15 The Prophet Micah

- "Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams, with ten thousand rivers of oil?" (v. 7).

- No, the prophet said God would not be pleased with rams, oil, or elaborate gifts.
- "Shall I offer my firstborn for my transgression," said the people, "the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?" (v. 7).
- Are you kidding? Extreme self-sacrifice! No way, said Micah.

16 The Prophet Micah

- Like so many of us today, the people of Jerusalem wanted to cut a deal with God.
 - When they see trouble coming,
 - sense grave danger, or
 - receive a bad diagnosis, they may pray,
 - "Heal me, Lord, and if you do, I'll make a huge donation to the church."
- These kinds of prayers are understandable, but they don't bring us any closer to God.

17 The Prophet Micah

- They end up being transactional, not relational.
- They send the message that we want to show our appreciation to the LORD, but we don't really want to change our lives to get closer to God.
- This seemed to be true for the people of Jerusalem.
- They would be happy to make a burnt offering but would not stop taking bribes or doing wrong.
- They would be willing to give the LORD some rams and oil, but they would not reform their unjust real estate or law practices.
- They would gladly give up their firstborn child but would not stop committing fraud or theft!

18 The Prophet Micah

- The hunger for satisfaction is powerful.
- We are pleasure-seeking creatures and will do almost anything to preserve what makes us feel good or gives us self-esteem.
- When Mick Jagger sings, "I try, and I try, and I try, and I try," he is talking about the effort we put into the search for satisfaction, even at the cost of our
 - ethics,
 - morals,
 - integrity,
 - marriages, and families.

19 The Simple Answer

- Micah reveals the true secret to happiness:
 - It has nothing to do with money, power, or possessions.
 - The true prophet says that God "has shown you, O man, what is good. And what does the LORD require of you?"
 - To act justly,
 - love mercy, and
 - walk humbly with your God" (v. 8).
- I don't know about you, but this is shockingly simple!

20 The Simple Answer

- The biblical professor Daniel Simundson agrees and adds,

- Acting justly, loving mercy, and walking humbly with God are the keys to pleasing God and to our own true satisfaction.
- Micah “clearly states,” says Professor Simundson,
 - “that God is more interested in how people interact with each other in their ordinary lives than in their religious or spiritual practices.”
 - When we can understand this, we’re not far from discovering the key to happiness.
 - However, if we prefer to show favoritism, love wrath, and walk in arrogance and pride, then we can try all we want, but we’ll never find real happiness or true satisfaction.
 - Why? Because they are not part of God’s nature, and we can’t walk with God when we walk in them.

21 What does it mean to Act Justly?

- Acting justly is not wishful thinking about the administration of justice in the world. But a set of concrete actions that advance fairness to both high and low without showing favoritism or bias.
- As it is written, “Do not pervert justice; do not show partiality to the poor or favoritism to the great, but judge your neighbor fairly.” (Leviticus 19:15 NIV)
- Acting justly is the opposite of what the rich landowners of Jerusalem were doing as they exploited vulnerable people in the community.
- It can also apply to anyone seeking to ...
 - take advantage of a neighbor,
 - cheat an employer or employee,
 - commit fraud, or cheat on one’s taxes.

22 What does it mean to Love Mercy?

- The Hebrew of this commandment is a little bit tricky because the word translated “mercy” is hesed, which is a common word in the Bible but not one that can be translated neatly into any one English word.
- Yes, it means mercy, but it also means kindness, grace, loyalty, and faithfulness.
- To love hesed is to love all these qualities, which are crucial in a relationship with God and the people around us.
- This is similar to what Jesus said to the Pharisees when they questioned why he was eating with tax collectors and sinners: “I desire mercy, not sacrifice” (Matthew 9:13).

23 What does it mean to Walk Humbly with God?

- Once again, the challenge is in concrete action: “Walk humbly.”
 - This means traveling forward with God,
 - walking in His way, and
 - staying close to Him.
- It means remaining humble in our thinking so that we don’t overestimate our own importance, where we stop looking into the mirror of God’s word.
- When we travel this way, we are mindful of our behavior because we know God is challenging us to act justly and love mercy.

24 Summary

- The promise of these verses is the gift of satisfaction.
 - When we act justly, we tend to have good relationships with the people around us.
 - When we love mercy, we are like God, who is rich in mercy.
- True satisfaction does not come from status, power, money, or possessions.
- True satisfaction does not come from spiritual gifts either.

- Instead, it comes from being right with God and right with the people around us.

25 Conclusion

- My first sermon was entitled "Ain't Got No Satisfaction."
- I gave that sermon in a church in La Place, Louisiana, not far from New Orleans.
- At the time, ...
 - I was a Bible College student in Baton Rouge with four other students who also preached.
 - This was my first experience in "Tag Team" preaching.
 - My text was from Numbers chapter 11 when the people of Israel wailed for meat!

26 Conclusion

- The following is that text from Number 11:4-6.
 - The rabble (trouble makers) with them began to crave other food, and again the Israelites started wailing and said,
 - "If only we had meat to eat!
 - We remember the fish we ate in Egypt at no cost — also the cucumbers, melons, leeks, onions, and garlic.
 - But now we have lost our appetite;
 - we never see anything but this manna!"

27 Conclusion

- According to the text,
 - Moses heard the people of every family wailing, each at the entrance to his tent.

- The LORD became exceedingly angry, and Moses was troubled.
- Tell the people:
 - 'Consecrate yourselves in preparation for tomorrow, when you will eat meat.
 - The LORD heard you when you wailed, "If only we had meat to eat! We were better off in Egypt!"
 - Now the LORD will give you meat, and you will eat it.

28 Conclusion

- All that day and night and all the next day, the people went out and gathered quail.
- No one gathered less than ten homers (6 1/4 bushels).
- But while the meat was
 - still between their teeth, and
 - before it could be consumed,
 - the anger of the LORD burned against the people, and he struck them with a severe plague.
- Therefore the place was named Kibroth Hattaavah because there they buried the people who had craved other food.

29 Final Word

- So then, what is the moral of the story?
- Don't be like Mick! He tried, and tried, and tried, and never found satisfaction! Just 🙄 at that face!!!
- Instead, listen to God's Prophet; he hears from God! He has shown you O'Man!
- Become imitators of God . . . sow good seed, and you will reap good fruit and find satisfaction for your soul.

- No trial, battle, or weapon can defeat us when we find true satisfaction and peace in our souls.
- Let us, therefore, be more than conquerors in Christ Jesus.