

=== Distributed NOTES===

Context of time of Micah
Poor were oppressed - A world where the rich were taking advantages of the them, taking their land and forcing them into indentured servanthood

People turned to Idolatry - Creating their own religions by adding other God's thinking it would help them prosper or would protect them

When confronted by God of their sins Micah answers for the people asking God

What do you WANT from us?
What can we do?
And then comes God's reply

Micah 6:8
*8 He has shown you, O mortal, 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.*

But what is Justice ?
How do we walk Justly ?
Or how do we [Do Justice]?

What is God's plan?

1. God is a Just God

He alone can judge what is just for His people.

*Isaiah 61:8
For I, the Lord, love justice,
I hate robbery in the burnt offering;
And I will faithfully give them their recompense
And make an everlasting covenant with them.*

*Isaiah 30:18
Therefore the Lord longs to be gracious to you,
And therefore He waits on high to have compassion on you.
For the Lord is a God of justice;
How blessed are all those who long for Him.*

Justice in the OT
**Mishpat is about being stronger together
That what is best for you and for me is what is best for all of us!**

2. Gods Pan is Community done in Unity

**We have to sacrifice what we want,
what we think is fair for what is best for all!**

We have to sacrifice me for WE

We see this in Acts 2
*And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.
And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles.*

*1 Cor 12
That there may be no division in the body, but that the members may have the same care for one another. If one member suffers, all suffer together; if one member is honored, all rejoice together. Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it.*

*Psalm 133
Behold, how good and pleasant it is when brothers dwell in unity!*

God's Plan is for Community done in Unity because that is where we see

His LOVE for one another

God is always desiring for us to gather, to care, to worship, to encourage and to live life together

'We are to be generating or instilling or building Mishpat'

When reading scripture

ALWAYS ask:

What is God doing here?

What is God asking me to DO?

Mishpat- "God is making a just and productive society"

- in order for life to exist, it must be SHARED

Abraham - "To keep the way of the

LORD by doing what is right and

JUST...by doing justice - Gen 18:19

-joining God in his mission of making a just and productive society

Mishpat is a 'dynamic power imbedded by God in creations design that makes the world work'

This power lies deep in the nature of God and in God's plans

It's God's plan and God is the Engineer

When we follow God's plan in unity we are a blessing to each other and those who we are sent to

Unity attracts others and protects us from conflict

We have to seek HIS justice

TOGETHER

He is the LIGHT and His light makes us aware of each other and of the darkness around us.

We need to work together to shine Jesus light above all else!

This allows us to develop greater love of one another, greater compassion toward one another and brings us to a greater sacrifice one to another.... with Jesus as our guide

So whats is the problem?

3. Our PROBLEM is SIN!

And the enemy of our soul who destroys harmony and unity

.. God wants peace and unity

.. Enemy wants chaos and division

Your enemy is not those who think differently than you or who disagree with you.

Your Enemy is Satan and his armies that seeks to steal, kill and destroy YOU

Our Sin separates us from God and that came as a result of choices that were best for ME

In the Garden sepents deception- 'your eyes will be opened and you will be like God'

Gen 3

6 When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it.

'good for food, (it wont kill me) pleasing to the eye(I like it) and desirable for gaining wisdom (I want it)

- she took and ate it and so did he

'When Gods law SEEMS to run counter to our needs DESIRE ARISES' - Dr. Widbin

The cycle of desire starts with I Like it and ends with I NEED it.

The problem of SIN - Dr Widbin

- (1) it imposes human will,
- (2) it rejects the shared life,
- (3) it hoards resources,
- (4) it ignores responsibility.

SIN is not helpful in making a Just Society it is just the opposite

It individualizes- my thoughts over yours

It prioritizes- my desires over what is best for the us

It replaces- Gods voice with mine

1st mention of Sin is God speaking to Cain, after Cain is angry that his offering, was not looked at favorably

Gen 4:5-7

If you DO what is right, will you not be accepted. But if you do NOT do what is right, SIN is crouching at your door, it desires to HAVE you, but you MUST rule over it'

SIN DESIRES to have you

SIN invites us in when we do NOT DO what is right

SIN door is opened when we do not feel accepted

BUT

We have the power to rule over it

When God is in control there is harmony and peace

When Man is in control there is wickedness and lawlessness that leads to violence (Gen 6:) status before Noah

The Lord saw how great the wickedness of the human race had become on the

earth, and that every inclination of the thoughts of the human heart was only evil all the time. 6 The Lord regretted that he had made human beings on the earth, and his heart was deeply troubled. ...8 But Noah found favor in the eyes of the Lord.

Me first thinking always starts with division and then in an attempt to manufacture unity descends into divisiveness.

Because ME first thinking is about POWER

- Getting it
- Keeping it
- Crushing those who threaten to take it or seek to share it

Because of SIN humans cannot create God's just and productive society

- Not people who agree with you
- Not your political party or candidate

It must be created by GOD!

We may not be able to create it but we are responsible FOR IT

We are His servants to steward His creation and His just society.

We need to go back to God's Plan!

God designs it but we are responsible to CHOOSE IT

We have to choose to

Do Justice

ACT Justly

Whose kingdom are my choices building?

By my decisions, am I choosing to build
Gods kingdom or mine?

Am I choosing to lead in love,
compassion and unity or am I being led
and easily deceived?
Do I live to consolidate power or Do I
live to create unity?
Its ALL in the choices I make

***Each of you choose what kind of
society we will be by the choices you
live your life by.***

So how do we do that?

4. God's answer is Jesus

from Jesus example

First we have to

- SEEK God - John 5

*19 Jesus gave them this answer: "Very
truly I tell you, the Son can do nothing
by himself; he can do only what he sees
his Father doing, because whatever the
Father does the Son also does*

- SACRIFICE Self Phil 2

*7 but emptied himself, by taking the
form of a servant, being born in the
likeness of men.*

*8 And being found in human form, he
humbled himself by becoming obedient
to the point of death, even death on a
cross.*

- SERVE others - Matt 20:28

*For even the Son of Man did not come
to be served, but to serve, and to give
his life as a ransom for many.*

Challenge:

***God STILL wants to build a just and
productive society and he wants to
do it with the Church***

His bride, with His body...

Will you partner with God to build His
society?

How is God calling you to Act Justly?

What is in the way of you following His
Call ?