

what does the Lord require of you?

"He has shown you, o man, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God?" micah 6:8

my mind has often thought about the thief on the cross. all he really did on his cross was to acknowledge Jesus was innocent and acknowledge He had a kingdom He was going to. can it really be just that simple? "believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved" acts 16:31

that seems to be all the thief did. i have heard it jokingly suggested that a new convert should be killed to keep them from sinning. is the christian life really that hard to live? i know Jesus said, "narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it." matt 7:14 does that mean we shouldn't try? great is the reward for those who do find it.

so we are left with the question, "what do we really have to do to be saved?" do we have to straighten up and follow the do's and don'ts? the jews tried that under the law and faith. or perhaps like the thief on the cross, do we simply have to acknowledge Jesus did not die because of His sin and that He had a kingdom left to rule?

"if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved." rom 10:9 that's what the bible tells us. we are saved by grace and by His

sacrifice and good pleasure alone. no one shall boast before God of their own deeds.

i think about the parable our Lord gave about the wedding feast and how those who were invited found excuses not to attend. He then said, "so those servants went out into the highways and gathered together all whom they found, both bad and good. and the wedding hall was filled with guests." matt 22:19 did He really say both bad and good? yep. you see, it is not our job to clean them up, just to invite them.

the Holy Spirit will transform the willing by the renewal of their mind. but then it talks about those who did attend but had no wedding garment on and they were cast into outer darkness. these were those attempting to enter by their own righteousness, not the righteousness of Jesus. the king has prepared a wedding garment for us all and that is what we are supposed to wear. anything else is "strange apparel".

"what shall we say then? shall we continue in sin that grace may abound? certainly not! how shall we who died to sin live any longer in it?" rom 6:1-2 we are to grow towards perfection, and that not in our own strength either. we have simply to present ourselves before God and He will gradually transform us by the renewing of our minds. so let's delve into what God "requires" of us; i.e., what is required of a redeemed individual.

to do justly - this would have been understood by micah's audience as living with a sense of right and wrong. just as the judicial courts have a

responsibility to provide equity and protect the innocent. (one might be left wondering about it these days.) "therefore, to him who knows to do good and does not do it, to him it is sin. james 4:17

to love mercy - this contains the hebrew word hesed, which means "loyal love" or "loving-kindness." along with justice, israel was to provide mercy. both justice and mercy are foundational to God's character. God expected His people to show love to their fellow man and to be loyal in their love toward Him, just as He had been loyal to them.

to walk humbly - is a description of the heart's attitude toward God. God's people depend on Him rather than their own abilities. instead of taking pride in what we bring to God, we humbly recognize that no amount of personal sacrifice can replace a heart committed to justice and love. remember what paul said. "for i say, through the grace given to me, to everyone who is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think soberly, as God has dealt to each one a measure of faith." rom 12:3

so in essence, a godly heart is outward (do justice), inward (love mercy), and upward (walk humbly). it is a three-way path to God, just as the trinity is three. this is how we should "work" towards God as He works on us. our works are to honor Him and He will reward us justly. in seeking and believing, He will deliver us from that "sin that so easily besets us." scripture tells us to resist sin. i think none have resisted to the sweating of blood yet. none but our Lord Jesus.

let us not seek to kill our converts, but instruct them in the ways of maturity, feeding the strong meat and not pabulum. "commit your way to the Lord, trust also in Him, and He shall bring it to pass." psalms 37:5 so follow these directives and you will meet your Lord's requirements for a redeemed life pleasing to Him.

do you still find the way too hard, your cross too heavy or your dying too slow? in reality, His yoke is easy and His burden is light. love makes things possible that fear cannot for, "perfect love casts out fear." 1 john 4:8 could this be the narrow gate Jesus spoke of.

one thing is needed

"but one thing is needed, and mary has chosen that good part, which will not be taken away from her." luke 10:42

what was it mary chose? she chose to spend quality time, sitting at the feet of Jesus, rather than being distracted by the mundane things of life.

now we all know there are tasks that need be done but are we putting them ahead of what's really important? i think when we are all lying on our death beds everything will come into perspective. we won't be worrying about something we left undone.

the following lyrics "one thing is needed" invites listeners to reflect on the importance of prioritizing our relationship with Jesus above all else. it emphasizes the need to set aside our earthly distractions and busyness to sit at the feet of Jesus,

to see Him clearly, and to experience His presence in our lives. it reminds us that true fulfillment and satisfaction can only be found in Jesus, and that all our efforts and accomplishments are meaningless without Him.

worship plays a significant role in the process of surrendering our lives to Jesus. these lyrics invite believers to express their devotion and surrender through heartfelt praise and adoration. as we lift our voices and hearts in worship, we align ourselves with God's will and open ourselves to His transformative work in our lives.

it's emphasis on sitting at the feet of Jesus is a metaphor for positioning ourselves in humility and reverence before Him. it is in this posture of surrender and worship that we encounter His presence and experience the fullness of His love and grace.

in the midst of my toil and service
when my spirit is carried away
keep me, Lord, from the work of the loveless
call my name when my heart goes astray

there's no payment or off'ring required
no provision my hand must supply
Jesus, only myself You desire
empty-handed i come to abide

when my efforts are lost to the ages
and all mem'ry of me is erased
i will sing of my portion in Jesus
mever-fading throughout endless days

one thing i ask of You, Lord
to dwell in Your presence forever
one thing i ask of You, Lord
to gaze on Your beauty forever

one thing is needed
only to sit at His feet
only to see Him
Jesus is all that i need

Jesus is all that you need, and if you haven't come to that realization yet, you are in deep trouble. He will hold you when you're hurting and lift you when you're down. He will safely guard all you treasures you place with Him and see you to glory to receive them. yes, there is only one thing truly needed and He is that "one" thing.