

K.E.Y. Bible Study (2012-2013/Year V)

K.E.Y Bible Study is a systematic study of Scripture that equips participants to become acquainted with the major truths of the Bible over a five-year period. Each lesson is self-contained, so, you can join the study at any time during the five years.

Purpose: To teach the most significant events, passages, and doctrines of the Bible in a manner and using methods that encourage and empower the student to:
Keeper the Faith We Have Received
Be **E**quipped to Serve the Body of Christ
Become **Y**oked in Ministry with Other Believers

Session 10
October 24, 2012

“Required Elements”

He has showed 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. **Micah 6:8**

Why is Micah 6:8 a K.E.Y. verse in the Bible?

Just when we start to think that (a) our religious life is made up of keeping rituals and moral actions, or (b) since we are saved by God’s grace, there is nothing for us to do... this verse jolts us back into reality. Our life in Christ is one of great responsibility which begins with a transformed character.

Who?

As is the case with all Scripture, God is the central character. He is a revealing God. We never have to guess what He requires or demands. (Our problem is not in *knowing*, but in *being* and *doing*)

Micah. Although a younger contemporary of Isaiah, his background was vastly different. He grew up in a small town out in the countryside about 20 miles southwest of Jerusalem. The people he knew were not wealthy or influential. He was a prophet of the poor and a friend of the oppressed.

When?

Micah prophesied in the early part of the reign of King Hezekiah (742-687 B.C.). See Jer. 26:17-19. The times were hard for everyone. Under King Ahaz, Judah had been forced to pay tribute to Assyria. Wars had depleted everyone’s reserves. All sorts of economic crimes were committed against the lower classes that had no power. King Hezekiah attempted reforms, but the situation was hopeless. It was “everyman for himself.”

Context:

Though he lived in a time of religious revival, Micah's visions revealed that a time of dark judgment lay ahead for God's people before the dawn of a heavenly kingdom can come.

The major thrust of Micah's message was against social sins that existed in both Israel (Samaria, Israel's capital) and Judah. He spoke against the greedy nobles who defrauded the poor of their land, and who were quick to evict widows. This social oppression was reflected in Micah's passionate call for a return to doing justice.

Judah was placing its confidence in the outward orthodoxy of its ritual—just as many of us today place our confidence in the orthodoxy of our doctrine. But God demands more.

Micah urged a return to God that would be demonstrated in a change of heart—a change of heart that would necessarily issue in a lifestyle of love and justice, of compassion and caring for their fellowmen as they walked close to God. (Adapted from *The Teacher's Commentary*)

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Word Study

- **"showed"** – to manifest; to announce (always by word of mouth to one present); to expose, explain. To make plain. Micah is basically saying "there is nothing new here." See Deut. 10:12-13
- **"good"** – "favorable; beneficial; right" The term "good" was always used by the Old Testament prophets to sum up the requirements of the law, the stipulations of the covenant, which were good and intended for our good.
- **"require"** – a word that has the basic meaning of "to search out", "to pursue." What is it that God has laid out for you to pursue as His faithful follower?
- **"act justly"** – to come to the aid of the weak. Act in a just, fair way towards others. Treat them the way you want to be treated.
- **"love mercy"** – "loyal love," the greatest attribute of God in the Old Testament. It defines his steadfast covenantal love. Our call is to love people in the same way that God loves us: unconditionally, mercifully, passionately, consistently, kindly, and with loyalty. Don't just show mercy, but love to show it. Give others the same measure of mercy you want to receive from the Me. See Matt. 23:23
- **"walk humbly"** – a lifestyle that is not proud, not self-willed, and not arrogant. Remember who He is – "your God". He is our Master and our Lord. If we keep that in mind, we will walk humbly before Him.

Which of the *six areas of spiritual competencies* is emphasized in this K.E.Y. verse?

The Doctrine of Man. This verse tells us as believers in Jesus Christ to pursue a virtuous life before our fellowman.

What am I to *know* as a result of having read and studied this K.E.Y. verse?

Know that as a believer we have a great responsibility to model true justice, mercy and humility.

What am I to *be* or *become* as a result of having studied this K.E.Y. verse?

Be more aware of areas of need in your daily life. Be open; be ready

What am I to *do* in order to apply this K.E.Y. verse in my private and public life?

Do acts of justice, truly act with merciful love and have a proper perspective on how you are to live in relationship with God.

Romans 12:1-21 Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God--this is your spiritual act of worship. Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is--his good, pleasing and perfect will.

For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the measure of faith God has given you. Just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. We have different gifts, according to the grace given us. If a man's gift is prophesying, let him use it in proportion to his faith. If it is serving, let him serve; if it is teaching, let him teach; if it is encouraging, let him encourage; if it is contributing to the needs of others, let him give generously; if it is leadership, let him govern diligently; if it is showing mercy, let him do it cheerfully.

Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good. Be devoted to one another in brotherly love. Honor one another above yourselves. Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord. Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. Share with God's people who are in need. Practice hospitality.

Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse. Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn. Live in harmony with one another. Do not be proud, but be willing to associate with people of low position. Do not be conceited.

Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everybody. If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone. Do not take revenge, my friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: "It is mine to avenge; I will repay," says the Lord. On the contrary: "If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink. In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head." Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.