

NEW YEARS WEEK SUNDAY MESSAGE 2014

A YEAR OF DECISION FOR PERSONAL COMMITMENT

MEDIA REFERENCE NUMBER JHX380

DECEMBER 28, 2014

THE TITLE OF THE MESSAGE:

THIS IS GOD'S WILL FOR YOU THIS YEAR

BEING PREPARED FOR WHATEVER COMES OUR WAY

SUBJECT TOPICALLY REFERENCED UNDER:

Hope, Perseverance, Expectation, Maturity, Discipleship

Introduction to the Text:

Micah 6:8

I thought it would be a good thing to pause on this, the last Sunday of the year to look ahead into the New Year before it breaks in upon us.

Psalm 65:11

You crown *(faithful to do so)* the year with Your goodness, And Your paths *(they already do)* drip with abundance.

Like the Psalmist, we pray

“Lord, teach us to number our days, that we may gain a heart of wisdom.”

There is always a mixed bag of thoughts that comes to us as we approach the end of one year and stand before the next.

Philippians 3:13-14

Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, **14 I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.**

KNOWING GOD'S WILL FOR THE NEW YEAR THIS IS GOD'S WILL FOR YOU THIS YEAR

Micah 6:8

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?

Don't be looking for some new revelation, some new word from God, but rather obey what has already been written. Notice this with me; 1st, The Lord says that He **has shown it** to us **(in the past tense)** 2nd That what He **shows** is good **(in the present tense)**, and only then, 3rd Does He say **this is** what I require of you **(in the future tense)**.

Micah 6:8

He has shown you,
O man, what is **good**; And what does the LORD **require** of you

shown = *nagad, naw-gad*

made clear. To make a bold showing or display of.

Good = *towb, tobe*

The beautiful, the best, the better, the pleasant, the sweet, wealth, welfare,

require = *darash, daw-rash*

to seek after or to ask for, to expect, to desire.

“What does the LORD require of you?”

(This is the ultimate question isn't it?)

THIS IS GOD'S WILL FOR YOU THIS YEAR

1.) That you make the **right decisions**

Micah 6:8a
But to **do justly**.

THIS IS GOD'S WILL FOR YOU THIS YEAR,
THAT YOU MAKE THE RIGHT DECISIONS

1a.) **Realizing** that God has the answer to give

Remembering this great truth, God desires to lead us and to guide us this year more than we want to be guided or led by Him. That should be encouraging to us all. Because of this great truth, we should always anticipate guidance on a daily basis.

The word to "do justly" is "to execute **right judgment**"

It's to pass righteous judgments in all situations and cases;
Regarding yourself and toward others;

to make god-like decisions in your life.

John 7:24
Do not judge (decide) according to appearance, but judge with righteous judgment."

Notice here, that Micah calls them back

to what they already knew, that God had shown them how to **act** how to **think** and how to **be** with one another.

Micah 6:7
Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams, Ten thousand rivers of oil? Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression, The fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?

THIS IS GOD'S WILL FOR YOU THIS YEAR,
THAT YOU MAKE THE RIGHT DECISIONS

1b.) **Knowing** that God wants to give you the answer

Ephesians 4:31-32
Get rid of all bitterness, rage, anger, harsh words, and slander, as well as all types of evil behavior. 32 Instead, be kind to each other, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, just as God through Christ has forgiven you.

We need to be harder on ourselves in judgment than we would be toward others and we need to be more gracious toward others, than we would be toward ourselves.

1 Corinthians 11:31
For if we would judge ourselves, we would not be judged.

THIS IS GOD'S WILL FOR YOU THIS YEAR,
THAT YOU MAKE THE RIGHT DECISIONS

1c.) **Expecting** that God will give you the answer

Proverbs 4:2, 22-27
2 For I give you good doctrine... 22 For they are life to those who find them, And health to all their flesh. 23 Keep your heart with all diligence, For out of it spring the issues of life. 24 Put away from you a deceitful mouth, And put perverse

lips far from you. 25 Let your eyes look straight ahead, And your eyelids look right before you. 26 Ponder the path of your feet, And let all your ways be established. 27 Do not turn to the right or the left; Remove your foot from evil.

THIS IS GOD'S WILL FOR YOU THIS YEAR

2.) That you do the right thing

Micah 6:8b
To love mercy.

No one in your life will ever know if God's mercy is at work in you
-- unless you "Do Mercy"

merciful = Grk. oiktirmon, oyk-tir'-mone. Heb. hecqed, kheh'-sed;
is to act compassionately toward others. to be tender, soft, caring toward others. to feel for them as if you were them.

Luke 6:36
Therefore be **merciful**, just as your Father also is **merciful**.

This means that you and I are to extend mercy
toward others - But how do we do this?

By extending forgiveness, By extending aid to those in need -- By extending help to someone who needs help.

1 John 3:17-18
But whoever has this world's goods, and sees his brother in need, and shuts up his heart from him, how does the love of God abide in him? 18 My little children, let us not love in word or in tongue, but in deed and in truth.

James 2:14-17
What does it profit, my brethren, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can faith save him? 15 If a brother or sister is naked and destitute of daily food, 16 and one of you says to them, "Depart in peace, be warmed and filled," but you do not give them the things which are needed for the body, what does it profit? 17 Thus also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead.

THIS IS GOD'S WILL FOR YOU THIS YEAR, THAT YOU DO THE RIGHT THING

2a.) The right thing will always honor God

Christian – we are under orders to obey the moral will of God as it is revealed in Scripture. If the Scripture forbids a certain action in question, your decision is easy – **just don't do it**

1 John 5:3
For this is the love (will) of God, that we keep His commandments.
And His commandments are not burdensome.

Matthew 7:20-23
Therefore by their fruits you will know them. 21 "Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. 22 Many will say to Me in that day, "Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?" 23 And then I will declare to them, "I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!"

THIS IS GOD'S WILL FOR YOU THIS YEAR, THAT YOU DO THE RIGHT THING

2b.) The right thing will always benefit others

Deuteronomy 10:12-13

“And now, Israel, what does the LORD your God require of you, but to fear the LORD your God, to walk in all His ways and to love Him, to serve the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul, 13 and to keep the commandments of the LORD and His statutes which I command you today for your good?”

Husbands & Fathers

You are to be living, breathing, working and serving your wife and children.

Wives & Mothers

You are to be living, breathing, working and serving your husband and children.

(Single person – universal ministry, labor and service)

You are to be living, breathing, working and serving the LORD and children.

**THIS IS GOD’S WILL FOR YOU THIS YEAR,
THAT YOU DO THE RIGHT THING**

2c.) The right thing will always be the right thing

This New Year before us is like a freshly plowed field.

???What Kind of Seed will You be Sowing???

Philippians 2:13

for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure.

Your **mind** / your **body** / your **mouth** / your **hands** / your **feet** / your **eyes**,
are all tools for sowing seed for this New Year.

Galatians 6:7-10

Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap. 8 For he who sows to his flesh will of the flesh reap corruption, but he who sows to the Spirit will of the Spirit reap everlasting life. 9 And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart. 10 Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all, especially to those who are of the household of faith.

THIS IS GOD’S WILL FOR YOU THIS YEAR

3.) That you think the right way

Micah 6:8c

And to **walk humbly with your God?**

walk = yaw-lak´; to literally bow down as you go. To carry away or to take away. to receive something or someone and to then carry it or them along your way.

Humbly = tsaw-nah´; to humiliate yourself or to see yourself in the proper reality. **to live in the right place of lowliness.**

“To walk with submission with your God”,
(I think of a happy dog on his leash with His master).

**THIS IS GOD’S WILL FOR YOU THIS YEAR,
THAT YOU THINK THE RIGHT WAY**

3a.) Thinking past the emotions

2 Corinthians 10:5

casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ,

Philippians 2:3-4

Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself. 4 Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others.

Our emotions are driven by “how” we see things and “how” we hear things. Emotions are unstable and unpredictable and because of that, we become guilty of committing “self-inflicted wounds”

2 Corinthians 13:5

Examine *(assay)* yourselves *(in light of the Word)* as to whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Do you not know yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you?

Self examination is a good and biblical practice,
But what I am not promoting is “**introspection**”.

Self examination leads to victory and liberation.
Self Introspection leads to sorrow and then depression.

Albert Barnes,

This is not a "crouching before God in terror and being afraid, this is the awe and wonder that defines those who have been forgiven. This is the healthy fear of the Lord and a walk of life that accompanies the created before the Creator.

Psalms 116:8-9 NIV

For you, LORD, have delivered **ME** from death, **MY** EYES from tears, **MY** FEET from stumbling, *(why?)* 9 that **I** may walk before the LORD in the land of the living.

**THIS IS GOD’S WILL FOR YOU THIS YEAR,
THAT YOU THINK THE RIGHT WAY**

3b.) Thinking out the results

Haggai 1:7

Thus says the LORD of hosts: “Consider your ways!

**THINKING THE WRONG WAY
LEADS TO PAIN AND HARDSHIP**

Micah 6:7

...Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression, The fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?

Proverbs 4:25-27

Let your eyes look straight ahead, And your eyelids look right before you. 26 Ponder the path of your feet, And let all your ways be established. 27 Do not turn to the right or the left; Remove your foot from evil.

**THIS IS GOD’S WILL FOR YOU THIS YEAR,
THAT YOU THINK THE RIGHT WAY**

3c.) Thinking through the noise

Make the LORD your #1 Pursuit this year.

Become so familiar with Him that you can anticipate His word to you.

Like a well worn piece of leather or a comfortable chair, “this fits comfortably in my hand”.

Isaiah 55:6-7

Seek the LORD while He may be found, Call upon Him while He is near. 7 Let the wicked forsake his way, And the unrighteous man his thoughts; Let him return to the LORD, And He will have mercy on him;

Matthew 6:33

But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.

Psalms 46:10

Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth! 11 The LORD of hosts is with us; The God of Jacob is our refuge.

Micah 6:8

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?**

“With your God”

Meaning – wherever justice is found, **The Lord will be there through you.**

Meaning – wherever mercy is found, **The Lord will be there through you.**

Meaning – wherever humility is found, **The Lord will be there through you.**

Romans 12:1-2 NLT

And so, dear brothers and sisters, I plead with you to (1) give your bodies to God because of all He has done for you. (2) Let them be a living and holy sacrifice— (3) the kind He will find acceptable. This is truly the way to worship Him. 2 Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know **God's will for you**, which is good and pleasing and perfect.

“Just Walk with Me”

>>> **The Cross, The Christ, The Call** <<<

End of Study

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