

## **Courtroom of God (Micah 6:1-8)**

The prophet Micah paints a sobering picture of God's people. They were ungrateful despite His blessings, corrupt in their leadership, and compromised in their morality. The rulers perverted justice for profit, the priests abandoned the truth, and the people followed idols instead of the living God. Covenant faithfulness had been replaced by selfishness, greed, and disobedience.

With these changes in view, God calls His courtroom into session, He is both Judge and Prosecutor, and the mountains and hills, unchanging witnesses to history, are summoned to hear the case in Micah 6:1-2. Israel stands as the defendant, accused of breaking their covenant and betraying their God.

The charges: The Lord begins with a challenge, *"O My people, what have I done to you? And how have I wearied you? Testify against Me,"* Micah 6:3. He rehearses His goodness, rescuing them from Egypt, guiding them safely, and protecting them from enemies. The evidence is clear. God had been faithful, yet they turned away. They forgot His mercy, exchanged truth for idolatry, and treated others with injustice.

The evidence: When confronted, the people grasped for outward shows of religion. They asked if greater sacrifices could appease God, such as burnt offerings, thousands of rams, even their own children in Micah 6:6-7. But God rejects hollow ritual. He never desired bribes in place of obedience. His people could not buy His favor with ceremonies while their hearts remained corrupt.

The closing argument: The Lord's requirement is simple, yet profound. *"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. This is not about ritual but relationship. Justice means treating others rightly and reflecting God's fairness. Mercy means extending kindness and compassion, just as He has shown to us. Humility means walking daily in submission to God, acknowledging our dependence on Him.

The connection today: Micah's message also speaks directly to our time. Like Israel, we can be guilty of the same sins, forgetting God's blessings, excusing corruption, and compromising morality. We may try to substitute activity for faithfulness, imagining that religious habits can cover disobedience hearts. But the courtroom of God exposes every excuse.

The same God who judged Israel will on day judge all mankind. *"For we must all appear before the judgement seat of Christ,"* 2 Corinthians 5:10. On that day, no offering, no excuse, no appearance of religion will suffice. What will matter is whether we walked in obedience, humbly depending on God's grace.

The good news is that God has also provided the way of pardon. Through Jesus Christ, the Judge has become our Savior. At the cross, justice and mercy met. Those who turn to Him in faith and obedience will find forgiveness instead of condemnation. Micah reminds us

that God is not asking for the impossible. He calls us to a life marked by justice, mercy and humility. In a world filled with corruption and compromise, His people are to live differently. The “courtroom of God” is not only a warning but also an invitation to turn from sin, to walk with Him faithfully, and to live out the life He requires.

~Ron Josselet (Assisted by ChatGPT)