

Don't Forget

Micah 6:1-16

Bethany Assembly of God

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Central Proposition: Don't forget the covenant you have with God.

Introduction

It seems like the first years of parenting are doing everything for your kids and then, there is a big chunk of time between when they're toddlers to when they're at least in junior high when parenting is pretty much reminding your kids about everything they should already know how to do. Of course, remembering is hard when you're older too, isn't it? It isn't just hard for all the little things we need to keep track of; it's difficult to remember the big things too. Memory is a theme that comes up over and over again in God's Word. Our relationship with God is based on what He has done for us, particularly through Jesus, and we need to remember that so that we don't start acting as if God is just something we add to our otherwise complete lives, with all their patterns and habits, but that instead we act based on what God has revealed about Himself.

1. Remember God's Grace. See Micah 1-5; Deuteronomy 32:1; Joshua 8:30-35.

It's as if God is a prosecutor and He's bringing a case against His people. He calls the mountains and the foundations of the earth as His figurative witnesses. While His people may have forgotten what He had done, that didn't mean it hadn't happened or that they could ignore it. The mountains were supposed to remind God's people of His covenant with them, but do you remember what they had done on the mountains? They proliferated idolatry on these mountains. They had taken the things intended to remind them of God's goodness and His covenant and turned them into centers of idolatry. God has made a covenant with us as well. It's a covenant of grace through Jesus. Jesus Himself called it a new covenant in His blood. Like the Old Covenant, it's not just a list of rules but is a faithful response to God's grace.

2. Remember the Real Requirements. See Micah 6-8; Galatians 5:13-15.

Sometimes people blame God because they misunderstand God's requirements. They think God's commands are burdensome or that God expects way too much from them. But God's covenant was not just a contract. It was a relationship based on God's grace and faith. Their relationship with God was not a transaction, but freedom. However, their freedom wasn't freedom to live according to the flesh but freedom to live for God. And they could fulfill God's law by loving one another, and if they did not, they were neglecting the justice that the law required and were consuming one another. Remember the real requirements of God's covenant of grace, which are expressed really well by Micah, "Do justice. Love Mercy. Walk Humbly." And these all begin with faith in Christ.

3. Remember that Satisfaction Comes from the Lord. See Micah 9-16; Isaiah 28:20.

We live in a famously frustrated culture. We have more wealth and diversions than at any time in history, and yet depression and suicide are up. Opportunities abound, and yet many people fail to find meaning and purpose in life. Micah teaches us that when we feel frustration, it's a warning that we're looking for satisfaction in the wrong places. It stands to reason that if God created you to have a covenant relationship with Him through faith in Jesus, but you pursue all kinds of other avenues to find fulfillment, you may gain some of what you're looking for, but still feel unfulfilled.

Conclusion

God has always operated based on a covenant with His people. One of the critical mistakes that the Jewish people made was thinking that God's covenant was transactional and as long as they placated Him, He would take care of them. But that's not how God works. God was not interested in their sacrifices so much as in their relationship with Him. He wanted them to walk with Him, but they forgot. We know God's love through the gift

of His Son, Jesus Christ. We have a better covenant, not made with the blood of bulls and goats but with the precious blood of our Lord. How much more, then, should we pay attention and not forget?