

Gratitude: Halakh: Micah 6:8, Integrity & Honor, Humility & Gratitude

NOTE: Bible classes for Sunday, 26 May 1997, both sessions, are a Memorial Day Special: Montezuma's Revenge: President Clinton's Sesquicentennial Observance of the Battle of Chapultepec, 1847-1997. See "Specials," lessons 97MD-1 & 97MD-2.

Further, when the believer applies doctrine to life and circumstances, he is expressing a loyalty to truth under pressure. In fact, the volitional decision to remain loyal to truth under pressure is an expression of personal love for God, His plan, His Word, and His will.

A lifestyle expressed in behavior patterns and character traits developed from loyalty to truth indicates great genuine humility of soul. When this humility is expressed under the function of ambassadorship, the believer's inner Christian integrity is interpreted by his fellow man as honor. When this humility is expressed under the function of the priesthood, the believer's inner Christian integrity is interpreted by God as gratitude.

Micah 6:8 - What does the Lord require of you? Do justice, love loyalty, and walk humbly with your God.

We may now paraphrase this verse in an effort to incorporate all the principles we have noted so far:

Micah 6:8 - [Paraphrase] What does the Lord require of you? In one's thoughts, decisions and actions, function under the norms and standards of divine righteousness. Motivated by personal love for God, be caused to remain loyal to truth under pressure. Under genuine humility, develop a lifestyle characterized by behavior patterns and character traits which reflect honor towards one's fellowman and gratitude towards God.

To “*do justice*” refers to submission to the imperative moods of Scripture, i.e., “*Do your duty.*” To “*love kindness*” refers to loyalty to those principles under pressure. Adherence plus loyalty produces a lifestyle characterized by genuine humility. Genuine humility is interpreted by the world as honor, by God as gratitude.

When the believer's Christian walk is characterized in this way then we may say that he is “*walking in the ways of the Lord.*” The metaphorical use of the words *derek*, and *halakh*, forces us to view life as a journey. The literal meaning of *derek* is a “*traveled and therefore well-established road.*” It's metaphorical or figurative sense is of “*conduct and behavior as responsible and ethically accountable actions.*”

Halakh takes into account what a person is to do and how he is to do it. A *derek* or a wheel-track may not always lead to the desired goal. Some wheel-tracks are righteous while others are wicked.

The Lord leads and guides the believer in wheel-tracks of righteousness to His desired goal. To go or to walk in the wheel-tracks of the Lord means to do justice and love loyalty in status quo humility.

Deuteronomy 5:32 - You shall observe to do just as the Lord your God has commanded you; you shall not turn aside to the right or to the left.

Deuteronomy 5:33 - You shall walk [*halakh*] in all the way [*derek*] which the Lord your God has commanded you, that you may live, that it may be well with you, and that you may prolong your days in the land which you shall possess.

Deuteronomy 26:17 - You have today declared the Lord to be your God and that you would walk [*halakh*] in His ways [*derek*], keep His statutes, His commandments, and His ordinances, and listen to His voice.

Deuteronomy 28:9 - The Lord will establish you as a holy people to Himself, as He swore to you, if you will keep the commandments of the Lord your God and walk [*halakh*] in His ways [*derek*].

Deuteronomy 30:15 - I have set before you today life and prosperity and death and adversity;

Deuteronomy 5:16 - in that I command you today to love the Lord your God, to walk [*halakh*] in His ways [*derek*] and to keep His commandments and His statutes and His judgments, that you may live and multiply, and that the Lord your God may bless you in the land where you are entering to possess it.

Thus, walking in the ways of the Lord means to keep His commandments and to do so willingly.

The nation Israel was under a covenant with the Lord. He has appointed them His first Client Nation. His blessings to them were contingent upon their compliance with the Law.

Do not misunderstand me. The Jews in the Dispensation of Israel were saved by grace through faith alone in Jehovah Elohim alone. However, blessings, above and beyond the irrevocable assets imputed at salvation, are contingent upon compliance with the Word of God. As a Client Nation, adherence to the Law ensured spiritual and financial prosperity for the entire nation.