

A Mid-day Meditation

From

Sue's Perspective

*"...and what does the LORD require of you
But to do justice, and to love kindness,
And walk humbly with your God?" – Micah 6:8*

This passage from the Book of Micah has resonated with me for years. It reminds me just what God expects from me and from all people. Mind you, as I read and reread those words, I ask myself on a regular basis if I am actually fulfilling these words as I should – not as I am able, but as I should. Have I done what the LORD requires of me? Do I fully understand what the LORD requires of me? Am I willing to do what the LORD requires of me?...

"...and what does the LORD require of you..."

The first thing on the list is to do justice. What does it mean to "do justice?" I expect that there are as many answers to that question as there are people on the face of the earth. What I consider justice, another might consider anarchy. This is where all of this gets complicated. Justice, to me, does not include the chaos, the upheaval, the hatred that we find all around us in the world today. When justice is done for one person, it may appear to be injustice to another. Until we can agree on what justice is, then we are going to continue to live in a world where there is racism, homophobia, riots, hate-mongering and all the other things that happen which destroy the human soul as well as the human body. Until the voices of world leaders cease with the rhetoric of blame and shame, none of this will change...we are charged by God to do justice, what does that mean for you?...

...But to do justice,...

Then comes the part that seems easy (and I say "seems" intentionally). The LORD wants us to love kindness. I looked to see some words that are synonyms for kindness. Here is a list that is in no way exhaustive: kindness, goodwill, affection, gentleness, care, thoughtfulness, selflessness, compassion, tolerance, benevolence, sympathy and generosity. We are asked to "love kindness." Honestly, from my perspective, it can be really difficult to do that especially in today's climate. Yet, we need to consider what our responsibilities toward our brothers and sisters of the world are. If we truly love kindness, we will not sit back and be silent about what is happening. As I have been taught to understand, our silence means our complicity. Do we really believe and support the actions of some in the world around us and perhaps in our own community? How do we truly "love kindness" as God would have us do it?...

... and to love kindness,...

And last, but not least, we are charged to "walk humbly with your God." The way I see it, we cannot walk humbly with God if we do not address the first two. How can we possibly walk with God, a god who does

justice and loves kindness, if we fail to do the same? How can I sidle up along-side God, say “here I am, ready to walk with you,” when I leave behind me no effort on my part to change the world we live in for the better? The last thing I want is for God to look me in the eye and say to me, “Are you sure? Have you done what I have asked of you?” especially if I have not. God will wait for us – heavenly days, he’s waited this long for us, and God will continue to wait. How do you prepare to “walk humbly with your God?”...

... *And walk humbly with your God?*”