

*He has showed you, O Man, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God. Micah 6:8*

It sounds so easy. Act justly, love mercy and walk humbly with God. Yet it never ends up being quite as easy as it sounds. As we relax and recharge during the summer months we remind ourselves how much we love teaching and being around the students. As summer starts we can't wait to get them back on our campus. What about in February when everyone is in the midst of the year? How easy is it to remember to act justly when the same student asks the same question for the thousandth time?

Plus what does it mean to really love mercy? The definition I saw of mercy said it is the kind or forgiving treatment of someone who could be treated harshly. Maybe I am the only one, but this can be a struggle. There are times when forgiveness and kindness come naturally, but then there are the other times when it is the last thing I want to do.

The idea of walking humbly with God sounds so peaceful. The crazy thing is, it is peaceful. Yet we struggle with it. We get pulled to the side and off track. When I was younger and would read through the Old Testament I was always amazed by the lack of faith the Israelites showed. God would do an amazing miracle and then not long after the Israelites would be moving away and chasing other gods. As I have grown older I read the Old Testament and look at myself and ask, "Why can't I learn from their mistakes?" Just when God does something amazing in my life I seem to get distracted and forget it was God who blessed me in my situation.

These three things are preceded by a question. What does the Lord require of you? Act justly. Love mercy. Walk humbly with God. God doesn't require these of us for His benefit. He knows what is best for us and knows our lives will be better if we can do these things. As we get set for the beginning of another school year, I invite you to focus on these three things with me. If we can show the patience to act justly, the kindness to show mercy, and the faithfulness to walk humbly with God, imagine the continued and ever increasing impact we will have on our students this year.

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