October Transcript

Good day everyone. I'm Mike Hampton and this is Stewardship 365. Over the past few weeks, you have likely heard Pastor Dale deliver a sermon series focused on Micah 6:8. As a refresher, here is what Micah 6:8 says: He has shown you, O mortal, 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.

I believe the timing of this sermon series and this verse could not have been more perfect for our time in the election cycle. As I examine the last part of this verse, I can see that our role as concerned and responsible citizens is defined by God's direction. God commands us to act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly in all things we do in life. Let me deconstruct this last statement and share some additional thoughts with you.

What does it mean to act justly? Breaking this down a little more, I see where we are to seek justice and be fair in our dealings with others. I can also see that we are to defend those who are being unjustly accused or discriminated against. We, as believers in Christ, should be willing and eager to stand up for what is right and be courageous in our stance anchored in Jesus' teachings.

What about loving mercy? Mercy is defined as the compassionate act of withholding judgment. We should be quick to offer mercy to those that offend us or harm us, even though this can be very difficult. Our first reaction is to defend ourselves or to enact some form of punishment to the individual causing us trouble. Of course, we all know how Jesus responded to those who held the power of earthly law. If you look more closely at this instruction, it isn't enough to be merciful. We are to love mercy. This tells me that we should be so dedicated to sharing mercy that we should be seeking ways to be merciful.

And finally, we are to walk humbly with God, which tells me that we should be seeking a daily dependence on God and His direction for our lives. We should view our relationship as a slow and steady personal journey, walking side by side with God. How does walking humbly look in our daily life? It might be seen as we listen first, seeking God's guidance. It might also be seen as releasing control and letting God guide us through the daily challenges of life. Or it could be seen in our service to others, which is at the core of being a good steward of God's gifts.

Now I'd like to wrap up by sharing one last thought. As Christian stewards attempting to seek justice, love, and mercy for all and in our journey with God have an obligation to identify and elect civic officials who mirror these beliefs. One of the most effective

ways that we as citizens can exhibit good stewardship in our communities is to show up on election day and vote for those individuals that will seek justice, love mercy, and walk humbly. as they fulfill their sworn obligations to the citizens of this community, state, and country.

So, I encourage you to do your research on the candidates running to represent you and your values and beliefs and then vote on November 3rd. If you've not registered to vote, you can do so until October 23rd. If you missed that deadline, you can also register at your polling location if you present two forms of ID on election day. I hope these thoughts help you to appreciate how Micah 6:8 applies to our world today, just as it did so many years ago. The world was clearly different when this verse was first put to print, but its message is still powerful and serves to guide the Christian steward in matters that apply to our lives in today's world. So, until next time, may God bless you in your efforts to share His love and kindness through stewardship.