

בְּלָק

Balaq

(Balak)

B'midbar [Numbers] 22:2-25:9

הפטורה בבלק

Haftarah Balaq

Micah 5:6-6:8

What Does YHWH Require of You?

Micah 6:8

He has showed you, man, what is good; and what does YHWH require of you, but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your Elohim?

YHWH has shown us what is good and what He requires of us. It is a very short list.

1. We are to do justice
2. We are to love kindness (or mercy)
3. We are to walk humbly with YHWH our Elohim

We are going to discuss each one of these three in turn. Before we get into them individually let us realize that this is the same message that Yeshua brought to us from the Father in heaven. Let us consider what Yeshua taught us in what have come to be known as “the beatitudes.”

Matithyah (Matthew) 5:3-5

3 Blessed are the poor in spirit; for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

4 Blessed are they that mourn; for they shall be comforted.

5 Blessed are the meek; for they shall inherit the earth.”

פִּינְחָס

Pinchas

(Phinehas)

B'midbar [Numbers] 25:10-29:40

הפטורה פינחס

Haftarah Pinchas

Yirmeyah [Jeremiah] 1:1-2:3

The first three beatitudes are dealing with those who are humble in spirit and life and what they will receive as a result of this.

Matithyah (Matthew) 5:6-7

6 "Blessed are they that hunger and thirst after righteousness; for they shall be filled.

7 Blessed are the merciful; for they shall obtain mercy."

These two are dealing with those who love kindness.

Matithyah (Matthew) 5:6-9

8 "Blessed are the pure in heart; for they shall see Elohim.

9 Blessed are the peacemakers; for they shall be called sons of Elohim."

These two beatitudes are dealing with doing justice.

As we can see from this one short passage Yeshua taught us concerning what is good in the eyes of YHWH and what He requires of us in this life. As we will see as we proceed, Yeshua taught on these three things a lot.

Devarim (Deuteronomy) 10:12-13

12 "And now, Israel, what does YHWH your Elohim require of you, but to fear YHWH your Elohim, to walk in all His ways, and to love Him, and to serve YHWH your Elohim with all your heart and with all your soul,

13 to keep the commandments of YHWH, and His statutes, which I command you this day for your good?"

At first reading what YHWH is speaking through the prophet Micah may seem to be a different requirement than what He spoke through Moshe. However, when we prayerfully consider these two requirements together we see that they are quite compatible. In fact, to do the requirement as spoken by Moshe one must do so in the matter as spoken through the prophet Micah.

This is what Moshe tells us that YHWH requires.

1. Fear YHWH your Elohim
2. Walk in all His ways
3. Love Him and to serve Him with all our heart and soul.
4. Keep the commandments and statutes of YHWH

Please note what Yeshua taught us in regards to YHWH our Elohim and in regards to all men. It is important for us to note this in regards to what we are presently discussing.

Matithyah (Matthew) 22:37-40

37 And he said to him, "You shall love YHWH Your Elohim with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.

38 This is the great and first commandment.

39 And a second like unto it is this, you shall love your neighbor as yourself.

40 On these two commandments the whole Torah hangs, and the prophets."

Please note that Yeshua divides up the Torah and all the prophets into two categories. The first category is all those commandments, statutes and ordinances that are dealing with our relationship with YHWH our Elohim. The second category is dealing with all those commandments, statutes and ordinances dealing with our relationships with one another. Please note that in our passage today from the haftarah portion from the prophet Micah we find this also to be the case. We are to do justice and love kindness. Both of these are dealing with our relationships with one another. The last one to walk humbly before YHWH our Elohim is dealing with our relationship with YHWH.

What Moshe tells us that YHWH requires is that we are to fear YHWH and to love and serve Him and keep and obey all of His commandments. So here is a question to ponder. If one does not fear YHWH, can one love Him? And if one does not love YHWH how can he truly love his neighbor?

Yochanan Aleph (1st John) 4:20

If a man says, "I love Elohim", and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he that loves not his brother whom he has seen, cannot love Elohim whom he has not seen.

The simple truth is that one cannot love YHWH if he is consistently mistreating his brother.

Requirement #1:

We are to do justice

Luqa (Luke) 11:42

"But woe to you Pharisees! For you tithe mint and rue and every herb, and pass over justice and the love of Elohim; but these you ought to have done, and not to leave the other undone."

In this passage Yeshua ties together doing justice and loving YHWH our Elohim. Yeshua chastises the Pharisees because they did not seek to do justice and they did not love YHWH our Elohim. They were very careful to tithe everything, even the smallest of herbs. However, when they did tithe it was not because they loved YHWH our Elohim, but rather it was for show.

The Pharisees were not interested in justice; what they were interested in was keeping their own manmade rules and traditions. They did this even to the point of casting aside the commandments of YHWH, all the while claiming to be keeping the commandments.

Marqos (Mark) 7:6-9

**6 And He said to them, "Well did Isaiah prophesy of you hypocrites, as it is written,
'This people honors Me with their lips,
But their heart is far from Me.
7 But in vain do they worship Me,
Teaching as their doctrines the precepts of men.'**
8 You leave the commandment of Elohim, and hold fast the tradition of men."
9 And He said to them, "Full well do you reject the commandment of Elohim, that you may keep your tradition."

The simple truth of this matter is this: we cannot do justice following the precepts and doctrines of men! Why? One following men cannot do justice simply because the precepts and doctrines of men are self-serving and are in opposition to YHWH and His Torah given to us.

Requirement #2:

We are to love kindness (mercy)

Ya'aqov (James) 2:13

For judgment will be merciless to one who has shown no mercy, mercy triumphs over judgment.

Yeshua taught us that we are to treat others the way that we desire to be treated.

Matithyah (Matthew) 7:12

"All things therefore whatsoever you would that men should do to you, even so you do also to them; for this is the Torah and the prophets."

This is one thing that seems to be seriously lacking in the Hebrew Roots movement: kindness and mercy towards one another. We all know that we are at different places in our walks in serving YHWH and coming into His truth. Yet, even though most know this, most also act like everyone should be at their own levels of understanding. And if one is not at his level of understanding, then many times fellowship is broken off and a barrier is raised simply because there was no mercy and no kindness granted. Would these same people that act this way not also expect to receive mercy and kindness? To be sure!

Brothers and sisters in Mashiach, this is not an option. YHWH requires that we love kindness or mercy. To love kindness and mercy simply means that we will give it to all without reserve!

Galatians 6:7

Be not deceived; Elohim is not mocked; for whatsoever a man sows, that shall he also reap.

If you desire, yea, if you want to receive mercy and kindness, particularly upon the Day of Judgment, then you had better start giving kindness and mercy out in very large doses to all around you. Do not hold back on this precious commodity, but give it out freely as His Spirit empowers you to do so.

Requirement #3:

To walk humbly with YHWH our Elohim

Ya'aqov (James) 4:6

But He gives more grace. Therefore the scripture says,

"Elohim resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble."

In Christianity at large it is common to hear teachings that promote pride. Often times pride will be divided into a “good” kind of pride and a “bad” kind of pride. However, it will not take anyone very long to go through Scripture and look at those places where it talks about pride. What one will find is that there is no such thing as a good kind of pride. According to Scripture pride is evil. Pride is the opposite of humility. To walk in true humility before YHWH our Elohim means that all pride has to be rooted out and destroyed. This is an enormous task and this undertaking will not happen overnight. It will be a process that will most likely be quite lengthy. The length of time it takes to do this will depend upon the person and how prideful one is.

Pride is a very tricky thing and is not above hiding and disguising itself, even disguising itself as humility. Yep, you read that right. So how can one recognize pride that is disguising itself as humility? It is easier for another to see it than for the prideful person himself to see it. If a person indicates to us that there is pride present, then we had better get on our faces before YHWH and ask Him if it is true or not and don’t get up until we have a clear answer. And don’t let pride answer, because it will attempt to answer this query and we cannot afford for pride to answer, for our answer needs to come from YHWH Himself. For if pride is able to deceive us, then we are surely deceived and are on the road to death and destruction.

May each one of us determine to heed the Voice of YHWH as He has told us what He requires of us!

ABBA YHWH, we are willing to walk in all Your requirements of us. Please empower us to do as You require us to do; in the name of Yeshua our Mashiach. Amein.

Shabbat Shalom

Zerubbabel ben Emunah

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