

SERMON NOTES

4th Sunday after Epiphany, Year A * February 1, 2026

Sermon by the Reverend Tom Rutherford

Micah 6:1-8 * Psalm 15 * 1 Corinthians 1:18-31 * Matthew 5:1-12

What Does God Expect?

Micah asks, “What does the LORD require of you?”

“To act justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God.”

Micah 6:8

⌘ Act justly

⌘ Love mercy

⌘ Walk humbly with your God

“Blessed are the poor in spirit – that would be people who realize just how much they need God! – for theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven.”

Matthew 5:3

Where is the wise person? Where is the teacher of the law? Where is the philosopher of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world?...

Not many of you were wise by human standards; not many were influential; not many were of noble birth. But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong. God chose the lowly things of this world and the despised things—and the things that are not—to nullify the things that are, 1 Corinthians 1:20, 26-28

Next Week's Lessons

Isaiah 58:1-12 * Psalm 112 * 1 Corinthians 2:1-16 * Matthew 5:13-20

Chewing on Our Daily Bread

Questions for conversation with your family, small group, or a friend

1. Where do you see injustice in the world? Are you doing anything about that? If so, what?
2. What are you doing in your life to make this world a little more just – a little more like the Kingdom of God?
3. Who, besides Jesus and your mother, has been merciful to you and forgiven you for something you've done or left undone that hurt someone? To whom have you been merciful when they did something to hurt you?
4. What is something you do regularly to “walk with God” and develop your relationship with him?
5. PRAY:
 - ✦ Thanking God for that merciful person you described in #3 above.
 - ✦ For eyes to notice injustice in the world around you and courage to do something to make it right.
 - ✦ For grace to do what you described in #2 and #4 above.
 - ✦ For any needs in your group.