

Pastor's Ponderings

March 2009

Real Power

by

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"With what shall I come before the LORD, and bow myself before God on high? Shall I come before him with burnt offerings, with calves a year old?

Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams, with ten thousands of rivers of oil? Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?"

He has told you, O man, what is good; and what does the LORD require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God? Micah 6:6-8 (ESV)

Real power comes from being humble toward God. The Oxford dictionary says the word humble means, *"having a low opinion of your importance."* Looking at our text from Micah, being humble means recognizing you are the one who needs help and God is the One who helps.

Walking humbly is realizing you can do nothing and give nothing to earn or purchase forgiveness, salvation, and a right standing with God. You admit it is God who makes you right, provides forgiveness, and saves your soul. Nothing else is required and nothing else will do.

These words are recorded in Matthew 11:28-29: Then Jesus said, ***"Come to me, all who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest. ²⁹Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and You will find rest for your souls"*** (NASB). Jesus is pleading with you to come to Him, follow His example and learn from His teaching.

Jesus humbled Himself by submitting to God's will for His life. God's will for Jesus Christ was for Him to provide the perfect sacrifice for your sins. He shed His blood and gave His life on the cruel cross of Calvary so you can have eternal life. Jesus humbled

Himself, not for His own sake, but for your salvation.

Micah tells us, God doesn't want and certainly doesn't need your material gifts (burnt offerings, calves, rams, & rivers of oil) to make you right with God. Nor does God require you to give your most precious personal relationships as sin offerings (firstborn). Many religions of that time required child sacrifices and material possession offerings to satisfy their god.

God does not require those kinds of sacrifices from you to pay the penalty of your sin. Micah is telling us, God doesn't really want sacrifice. God has done the sacrificing. God sacrificed ***"...His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life"*** John 3:16 (NASB). God has done it all. Matthew Henry says in his commentary on the Bible, "One stream of the blood of Christ is worth ten thousand rivers of oil." The sacrifice has been made. The penalty paid. Real power is in the shed blood of Jesus Christ.

What God wants is your heart. What God wants is surrender! ***"God is opposed to the proud, but gives grace to the humble"*** (James 4:6 NASB). Ask yourself these questions: "Do you believe what I have done for you (sacrificed My Son and raised Him from the dead) is enough to pay the penalty for your sin?" and, "Will you allow Jesus to rule and reign in your life?"

If you can answer "yes" to those two questions, you are ready to experience ***"Real Power"*** in your life. If you say "no" to either one of those questions, then ask, ***"With what shall I come before the LORD, and bow myself before God on high?"***

What can you offer God? Your possessions, your wealth, your works, your pride, your way, your sacrifices, your life will not satisfy God. Humbly recognize you need the Savior Jesus Christ. Humbly accept Jesus Christ's death, burial and resurrection as full payment for your sin. Believe. Receive. Rest! ***Walk humbly with your God*** and experience real power!