

# SERMON SINGLES

## Touching Lives with Dr. James Merritt

## In The Meantime

Micah 6:8

### **INTRODUCTION**

Big things come in little packages. For instance, even though today's key passage is only one verse, in three sentences it answers the big question of how God wants us to live in the meantime. In order to properly understand this verse, we need to remember something as believers. A follower of Jesus is someone who has responded to the gospel. The gospel is that Jesus died for our sin and was physically raised from the dead. If we repent of our sins and place our faith in him, we will be saved, forgiven, receive eternal life, and have a relationship with God. What a lot of Christians fail to understand is that is where the gospel starts, not where the gospel ends. The gospel not only tells us how we are to relate to God; it then tells us how we are to relate to others. In other words, there is a vertical appropriation of the gospel that is to be followed by a horizontal application of the gospel. Jesus set a great example of what this looks like during His time on earth. He literally came to seek and to save that which was lost, but when they were hungry, He fed them. When they were thirsty, He gave them water to drink. When they were sick, He healed them. When they were hurting, He touched them. With that in mind, what are we to do in the meantime?

## **KEY POINTS**

### 1. Lead Justly

Now the word for "justice" or "justly" is found over two hundred times in the Old Testament. It simply means that you treat people equitably, but you also advocate that they are treated equitably. For example, "You are to have the same law for the foreigner and the native-born. I am the Lord your God" (Leviticus 24:22).

The word used for "same law" is the same word used for "justice." In other words, Israel was to have the same law for everybody whether they were an Israelite or not and everyone was to be equally protected under the law. Justice was to be blind to your race, to your socioeconomic status, to your level of education and to your religion." Justice shows no partiality. Therefore we should lead with no partiality according to God's Word.

#### NOTES

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### 2. Love Mercy

Notice we are not just to show mercy. We are to love mercy and love to show mercy and we are to love it when others receive mercy. By the way, justice and mercy actually go together. It looks at first as if we are talking about two different things, but we are not. The word for "mercy" refers to God's own unconditional grace and compassion on other people. It refers to the action. Mercy refers to the affection behind the action. You should want justice and do justice out of a merciful love for other people.

The bottom line is this. When you love mercy, you will live mercy. Do you know why living mercy and giving mercy is so important? If you are not a merciful person two things will be true about you in your life: you will be judgmental and you will be bitter. There is something liberating about being merciful. There is something liberating about treating the lowest, the littlest, and the least with kindness and with mercy. So let's choose to love mercy as we follow Jesus.

## 3. Live Humbly

To "walk" in the Bible is simply a metaphor for the way you live your life. We are to walk humbly. Now, humility is a tricky thing, because the moment you think you are humble you are not. The moment you say you are you are not. Humility begins with realizing that anything you are, anything you do, anything you achieve and is of value is because of the God that lives in you and the God who works for you as you walk with Him.

Real humility comes from understanding who you are in relation to who God is. When you walk with the God of this universe, you realize that you would be nothing without Him, lost without Him, undone without Him and helpless without Him, and pride will never become a problem. **NOTES** 

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## **QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER**

- 1. How does the Bible's definition of justice differ from what you perceived justice to be before you heard this message today?
- 2. Would you say that you are a merciful person? If not, why do you think you struggle to show mercy towards others?
- 3. What is one way you can choose to walk in humility this week?