

Micah 6:8 NIV

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.

Destruction has the capacity to raise its ugly head, especially when an individual has reached the point of enough is enough. These provoked thoughts can lead one into acts beyond human comprehension. The human mind when left unguided can lead one to act in an unbelievable manner.

Nevertheless, we can be assured of this, an individual or community should never be pushed to the point of explosion. As we look at the devastation that has recently taken place, many are reacting to the years of oppression. Especially as it relates to our community of color who has experienced unjust since the time of our forced insertion into these United States of America.

Although many of the atrocities that have taken place could be considered unwarranted, the truth is the lid has been blown off. When a lid is placed upon a boiling pot eventually the lid will not be able to hold its contents in place. Say what you will, but the African American Community is a pot that has been boiling for quite a long time. We have dealt with the enslavement of our Ancestors. We know about the struggles or the lynching's of our parents. We heard the stories of the rapes and whippings of our loved ones. We have struggled while we sat and listened at the knees of our aunts, uncles, mothers and fathers as they explained how our people faced some undaunting and sever oppression. Even our churches were bombed while our babies were having choir rehearsal. We saw documentaries of people who look like us being water hosed. We have suffered through the experiences of having our homes and communities gentrified, as our schools continue to be unequal and separated.

As a result this was a pot whose steam began piercing through a while ago that has met its breaking point. Now, we know that racism has not only affected our community, but it has permeated through other cultures as well. **Micah asked the question, what does the Lord require of us?** The answer is found in the same text it is to act justly amongst all humanity and not just a selected few. In addition, the text also implies that we must also show mercy to everyone. We are all equal and racism has no place in our society. Which further means that no race or culture is superior to another. When we act in a Godly and righteous manner, we will have no choice but to display humility. We must not think of ourselves more highly than our brothers and sisters.

In closing, the African Proverb reminds us, when our children are not embraced (**my paraphrase**) they will burn down the village of which they inhabit. Perhaps the reason why our children act the way they have is because, they are missing our embrace. If we do not understand the necessity of showing Love to our youth, then our buildings will burn. When this happens, we will have no one to blame but ourselves.

A child that is not embraced by the village will burn it down to feel its warmth (African Proverb)

My thoughts,

Bernard Downing