



New Life Riders

Motorcyclists Serving God and Community

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Dear Friends,

I am very happy to tell you that I am settled into Maple Shade Meadows in Nesquehoning, Pennsylvania now. I can really say, it feels like a completely different world than where I lived before. The people here are pleasant. The attitude of the staff is so different. The residents are greeted with a smile and treated with respect. Every day when I watch the news or read the paper, the whole world seems to be changing and it's disheartening to see the lack of kindness and respect for our own human race. I see and hear things represented as being "Christian" values that don't seem very Christ-like. It's overwhelming and easy to just turn off the TV or radio and not get involved. However, Christ has called us to be a people of action.

Micah was a prophet about 700 years before Jesus. Prophets weren't people who peered into crystal balls predicting the future. They knew God's word, looked out over society, and saw discrepancies between what God wanted, and how people behaved. The prophets intervened to help people follow the right road. Micah was one of the prophets who addressed the people during a time of prosperity ... for the privileged. Everyone else limped behind and the poor were getting crushed. So the prophets intervened. They saw a system rigged against the poor, with oppressive taxes, and corruption. Although the privileged worshiped God, God was not pleased because they gave thanks for a system that benefitted only them. For several generations, prophets like Micah reminded people that God didn't care about their beautiful sanctuaries, lavish music, and eloquent prayers if their worship didn't translate into treating people fairly outside of their congregations.

In Micah 6:8, we hear, "He has told you, O mortal, 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?" What does God require of us? It's simple, really: Be a decent human being; Love like Jesus; Stay humble; Work for Justice; Don't be self-serving.

We are to Do Justice. Justice comes from a Hebrew word that means to make right. What are we doing to make things right? Do we advocate for policies that make our systems fair so everyone has a fair shot? We can also think about making things right in our families, church, and communities. Is there someone that you need to make things right with? Do we intervene when someone is mistreated, when someone is treated as less than a beloved child of God? Benjamin Franklin once said, "Justice will not be served until those unaffected are as outraged as those who are." Archbishop Desmond Tutu put it plainly, "If you are neutral in situations of

injustice, you have chosen the side of the oppressor. If an elephant has its foot on the tail of a mouse, and you say that you are neutral, the mouse will not appreciate your neutrality.” Justice does not happen when a few activists get riled up, but when the masses remember that silence is compliance, and we do our best to make things right. We must do justice and make things right within our spheres of influence.

We are also to Love Kindness. There is a difference between kindness and being nice. According to the Blackburn Center for nonviolence: “Kindness is often expressed through actions you take for others, while niceness typically involves more superficial words or simple gestures. A nice person may tell a neighbor they are sorry that they are sick — while a kind person may drop off some soup or offer to pick up groceries for them.” Love Kindness is really one word: lovingkindness. In Hebrew, this word is hessed. God’s loving kindness, mercy, and faithfulness are described as hessed. The requirement to “love kindness” is telling us to do unto others as God has done us.

Lastly, we are to Walk Humbly. The word humility has its roots in the word humus, which means from the earth, or lowly. It’s about staying grounded. Humility doesn’t insist on its own way. It recognizes others’ views, ideas, and gifts, and that God is over all these things. Spend time with God: in prayer, through scripture, in worship. When we do these things earnestly, we walk humbly. And when we walk humbly, those other two requirements of doing justice and loving kindness are much easier.

May we all do justice, love kindness and walk humbly.

In a spirit of justice, kindness and humility, may you be confident in your salvation and heavenly home. As always, I look forward to seeing you down the road. Love Jesus, be thankful and keep doing the good stuff.

*Riding with Jesus,
Bob Dillon
Serving God and Community
www.newliferiders.com*



God bless America

Please watch for my emails, prayer requests and updates

***Jesus said, “Go into the world. Go everywhere and announce
the Message of God’s good news to one and all.”
Mark 16:15 (The Message)***