

WHAT THE LORD REQUIRES: MONDAY, 18TH JULY, 2022, WEEK 16, YEAR II.

MICAH 6:1-4, 6-8; PSALM 50; MATTHEW 12:38-42

The setting of the First Reading of today is a court scene. God summons His people to the court. He called the mountains, the hills and the foundations of the earth to be witnesses.

God accused Israel of being ungrateful and unfaithful to the covenant. Israel defended herself by asking what else did God want from them. They had brought Him burnt offerings with thousands of calves and rams, libations of oil in torrents and some had even offered their children as burnt offerings, following the Canaanite's practice of sacrificing their sons and daughters to Molech.

God responded, saying that what He wanted was not burnt offerings or more oils. There were three things that Israel had neglected and these three things, we must never neglect.

1. Act justly: That is, to be fair and honest in our dealings with others, to stop all forms of cheating and to do unto others what we want to be done to us.
2. To love tenderly: To shun all forms of bitterness and hatred and to show others the loving-kindness of God.
3. To walk humbly with God, which means to be faithful and sincere in our relationship with God.

These are the things that God requires of us. In today's Gospel, some scribes and Pharisees asked Jesus for a sign. The world always asks for signs. Our signs to the world that we are the people of God and that we are serving a living and loving God are: Acting justly, loving tenderly, forgiving easily and diffusing joy, sincerity and consistency in our walk with God.