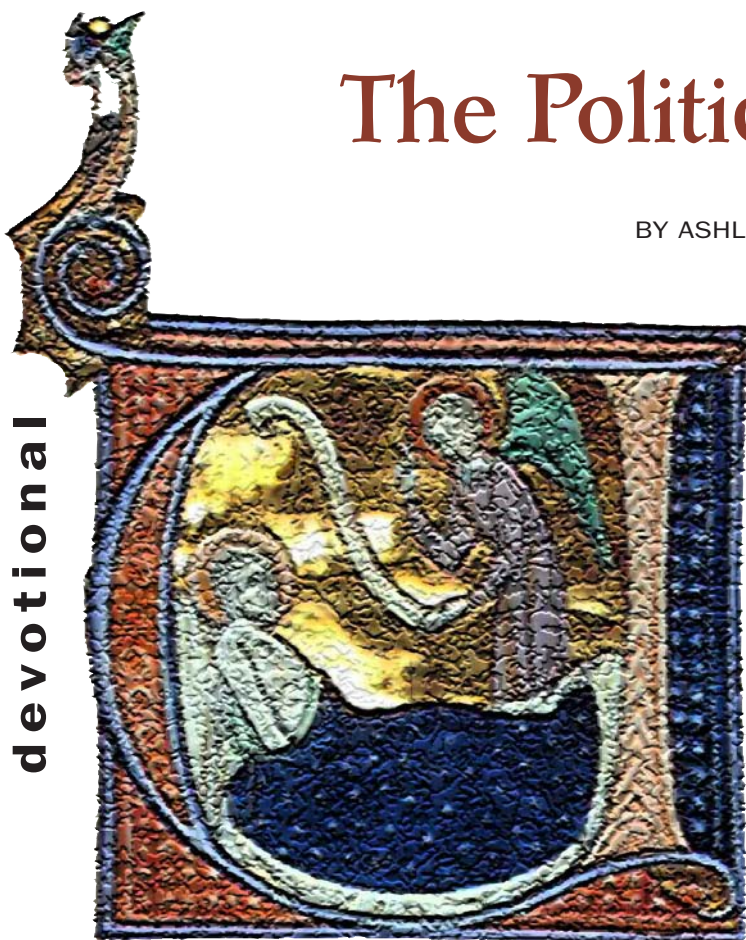


The Politics of *Micah*

BY ASHLEY MEYER

devotional



An Angel before Micah, courtesy of J. Paul Getty Museum

I have been thinking a lot lately about the politics of *Micah*, and contemplating a particular passage. As I look at this passage, I wonder what it really means to do all these things—both as an individual and as a community.

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?

—*Micah* 6:8

The Lord requires us to do justice. But how can we do justice? In the tradition of the prophets, in the footsteps of Gandhi, in the words of Martin Luther King Jr., in the actions of Mother Teresa, and in the teachings of our Lord, Jesus Christ, we learn that the best way to do justice is to open ourselves to the people around us. Is someone in our city hungry or thirsty? Is someone in our nation being punished for a crime they did not commit? Is someone in our world stuck in a violent situation, calling out for help?

As people who are called to do justice, we hold each other to account wherever injustice occurs. It is not enough simply to wait or hope for peace. By

working for justice, we participate with God in making peace. To do justice is to be a peacemaker.

The Lord requires us to love kindness. But how can we love kindness? The greatest commandment is to “. . . [L]ove the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbor as yourself” (*Luke 10:27*). Loving kindness is something we learn how to do with and from each other. It is difficult to be kind when someone hurts us. It is difficult to be patient when we are under constant pressure. It is difficult to show mercy when governments, coworkers and neighbors are often merciless. Yet mercy and kindness have been given to us through the gift of God’s Son. To love this gift of kindness is to offer it back to God’s crea-

tion. And the kindness and mercy that we must learn to love is only possible when connected to justice and peacemaking.

The Lord requires us to walk humbly with God. But how can we walk humbly? Though this is a difficult requirement, the answer is simple. We learn how to walk humbly by taking the first step. But instead of walking in the direction we want to go, instead of taking the action that will achieve what we want, we ask God, “Where do *you* want us to go? What would *you* have us do?” Then, in faith, we take a step in that direction. How will we know that we have walked humbly with God? More than likely that first step, or some step soon after, will take us down the path of justice and peace.

Walking humbly before God means accepting the responsibility of doing justice, of loving kindness and of making peace—in ourselves, in our families, in our community, in our world. This is our call to action, our humble response to a crucified and resurrected Lord.

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