

Daily Devotion For October 7, 2022

He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the LORD require of you? **To love mercy, to do justice** and to walk humbly^[a] with your God." Micah 6:8

In yesterday's devotional I shared that I was dismissed as a prospective juror in a criminal case in Salinas. One of the questions that was asked of me was, have I ever served jury duty before. I told the Judge that I had served in a criminal case in LA County and a civil case in Orange County.

Perhaps you have received a jury summons to appear for jury duty. Before a jury is chosen, hundreds of summonses are mailed to local citizens. They are instructed to report to the courthouse at a given day, date and time or face stiff penalties. Once you arrive in the court room, you undergo an often tedious selection process whereby the opposing attorneys attempt to seat a jury that is most likely to render a good verdict.

I remember that during one jury selection process in the early 1990's, I was asked to state my occupation to which I replied that I was a pastor. The lawyer then asked me, as a pastor would you have a tendency to be more forgiving??? I thought that was an interesting and self-reflective question.

My response was, "I will seek to be a fair and impartial juror."

Thought For Today: As Christians we are called to **love mercy**. But we are also called to **do justice**. If every person who committed a crime were to be forgiven and left to wander the streets, no street would be safe and maybe the criminal would be free to commit other crimes. Would that be justice? What about the offended party, would that be receiving justice? Where do you draw the line between mercy, forgiveness, and justice?

Today's Prayer Focus: Last Tuesday, September 27th, Kiku Kuwatani fractured her ribs. Let us keep her in prayer for a quick and pain free healing. Continue to pray for the many in our church family in need of God's healing and comforting touch. Joyce Gota recovering from cataract surgery, Nancy Ichiuji, Bob McIntyre, Anne Bevier, Anne Kageyama, and God's presence and comfort for Shirley Wong and the Yoshida family. Deo Volente