

Values Matter Discovery Starters

We Are Visionary

11. EXHIBIT SERVANT LEADERSHIP

YWAM is called to servant leadership as a lifestyle, rather than a leadership hierarchy. A servant leader is one who honors the gifts and callings of those under his/her care and guards their rights and privileges. Just as Jesus served His disciples, we stress the importance of those with leadership responsibilities serving those whom they lead.

[Deu 10:12-13](#); [Psa 84:10](#); [Isa 42:1-4](#); [Mic 6:8](#); [Mar 10:42-45](#);
[Joh 13:3-17](#); [Rom 16:1-2](#); [Gal 5:13-14](#); [Php 2:3-11](#); [1Pe 4:10-11](#)

Value #11 – Exhibit Servant Leadership: Justice, Mercy, Humility

Biblical Foundation:

O people, the LORD has told you what is good, and this is what he requires of you: to do what is right, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God (Mic 6:8).

Discovery Starter:

God is our ultimate model for leadership. Ethan the Ezrahite declares to God, "Righteousness and **mishpat** are the foundation of your throne; **hesed** and faithfulness go before you" (Psa 89:14). The two words transliterated from Hebrew describing God's rule are the same words that Micah uses in our foundational passage. **Mishpat** is the word we commonly translate as justice, and speaks of the governance of a judge who equitably executes the law and its consequences. **Hesed** is translated as mercy or loving-kindness or compassion. It is used to describe the quality of heart that maintains an enduring, covenantal relationship of love.

When it comes to justice and mercy, how can we be imitators of God? In the Ten Commandments, God makes it clear that the law carries consequences. He states, "I do not leave unpunished the sins of those who hate me, but I punish the children for the sins of their parents to the third and fourth generations. But I lavish my love on those who love me and obey my commands, even for a thousand generations" (Exo 20:5b-6; Deu 5:9b-10). To get the full impact of these words, we have to do a little math. Whereas justice reaches to 3 or 4 generations, mercy extends to 1000 generations! In other words, though God will always be just, he's about 250 to 333 times more desirous displaying mercy! God does justice, but he **LOVES** mercy. What a contrast that is with the way I often respond. When someone has done me wrong, my natural inclination is

to exact justice, not extend mercy – certainly I don't wish for mercy over justice to the tune of 250+ times!

If we are going to be servant leaders who imitate God in doing justice and loving mercy, the third quality listed by Micah is absolutely vital! We will only have grace to walk in a servant-hearted manner if we "walk humbly with God." We can't do it on our own. We can do it with God. It is in the context of relational intimacy with God, that we find the grace to relinquish our rights and serve others in a Christ-like manner.

Keep Going:

The following seven passages from Psalms all contain the Hebrew words *mishpat* (justice) and *hesed* (mercy). Read through them and ponder the extraordinary character of God who blends them so artfully, indeed beautifully, in his every action.

- Psa 25:8-10
- Psa 33:5
- Psa 36:5-7
- Psa 48:9-11
- Psa 101:1
- Psa 103:6-12
- Psa 119:41-43

In your time of meditation, reflect on what steps you can take to grow in *mishpat* (justice) and *hesed* (mercy) as you "walk humbly with God." As you finish, invite God to work in your life in these areas so you can better reflect his servant heart to those around you.

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