

Community in God's Kingdom

([Micah 6:6-8](#), [1 Peter 2:5-10](#), [Luke 6:27-36](#))

God has called His people, our ancestors, through the prophets to join hands with him in establishing a new community. This is today's Old Testament lesson. After that, He has been calling everybody through His Son Jesus Christ. His Son Jesus Christ has not only done everything for establishing this community by dying on the cross, but also has called people like Peter and other apostles and has taught them what they have to do.

God's eternal plan is to unite all communities in the kingdom of His Son Jesus Christ ([Ep 1:10](#)). Therefore He has destroyed the barriers, the dividing walls of hostility, that are opposing his mission, on the Cross ([Ep 2:15,16](#)) and established a new community of Cross called the Church and gave them the responsibility to reach out all the communities in the world i.e. all the people groups and incorporate them in the kingdom of His son. Today's epistle lesson teaches the responsibilities of the members of this new community to live as God's spiritual house attracting all the communities as chosen royal priests proclaiming the praises of the Almighty God who has translated them from the kingdom of darkness of satan into the kingdom of light of His son. This is the key truth God wants us to learn today and live according to it.

The Old Testament lesson: [Micah 6:6-8](#)

Let us walk in Justice, love mercy and walk humbly with God

When God created everything, it was very good. However, God has given free will i.e., the ability to choose, to human beings. That means God never forces human beings to be obedient to Him. Therefore He has been telling them from the beginning what is good for them. As a sovereign Lord

of His creation He has shown them what he requires of them. He gave them freedom to enjoy everything He has given them within the boundaries of His commandments. But mankind chose to do otherwise. They began to do what they wanted instead of what God wanted them to do. So they could not escape the consequences of their rebellion. They brought death on themselves. Satan has been using human beings to thwart all God's good plans for the mankind. One thing is beyond our comprehension i.e. God's love and grace towards mankind in spite of their rebellion. From the first human beings Adam and Eve till today He has been calling them all day long, stretching His hands towards them and waiting for them to come to Him. He told His chosen people that He was not pleased with their burnt offerings but pleased with their obedient fellowship. He wanted everyone to act justly, love mercy and walk humbly with Him. But His people never listened to Him. Therefore they went into captivity as a consequence of their disobedience. Even then God did not stop showing them His steadfast love. He has never ceased calling them and even has sent His Son Jesus Christ in to the world. When people like Peter and John and others responded to His call and followed Him He taught them how to live in this world as His disciples. That is today's Gospel lesson.

**The Gospel lesson: [Luke 6:27-38](#)
Let us walk in love**

Lord Jesus Christ was with those who responded to his call and followed Him and taught them many things. The gospel writers preserved them in their Gospels. This portion is from what is called Jesus' sermon on the plain. Jesus gave the same sermon another time on a mountain. This is called sermon on the mount which was recorded in Mathew 5,6 and 7. Jesus taught His disciples very clearly that they would be recognized as His disciples only by their love, longsuffering and patience. Because of the love

of God in them they would love even their enemies. Pray for those who persecute them. Show mercy and forgive and always compassionate. They would never judge. Peter learnt all these lessons very well. Many times he failed in the tests the Lord had put .But our Divine Master, unlike the human teachers who easily give up on their students never gave up but prayed for Him and gave many chances to improve. Even though he denied Him thrice, He forgave Him and entrusted the responsibility of His flock. From then onwards Peter never turned back. Simon had become Peter the rock that had been used by the Lord to build His church which is a model for the new community. As per the Great Commission he received Peter went into the world, made disciples and planted churches. He gave his life for the Lord. Before he died he wrote his epistles to those who are going through intense suffering and persecution as minority communities in the pagan world. In his first epistle he taught them how they had to cope up with all the suffering they were facing and live in the society for the glory of God. This is today's Epistle lesson.

**The Epistle lesson: [1 Pet 2:9-10](#)
Let us fulfil our responsibility in the Community**

We find at the end of his epistle the reason why he wrote the epistle. He wrote the epistle encouraging them and testifying to the true grace of God and asked them to stand fast in it ([1Pet 5:12](#)). Apart from the true grace of God another important thing Peter taught about in this epistle is the blessed hope we have in Jesus Christ .Even when the circumstances around us deteriorate from worse to worse we shouldn't lose heart or be discouraged in despair, because an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade was kept in heaven for us. In view of this we need to live as strangers and sojourners in this world and love one another deeply, from the heart ([1Pet 1:24](#)). We have to live such good lives among the pagans that,

though they accuse us of doing wrong, they may see our good deeds and glorify God ([1Pet 1:12](#)), and submit ourselves for the Lord's sake to every authority instituted among men([1 Pet 1:13](#)). Married couples should live in such way that wives are submissive to their husbands and husbands are considerate with their wives ([1 Pet 3:1-7](#)). We have to live in harmony with one another; be sympathetic, love as brothers and be compassionate and humble; not repaying evil with evil or insult with insult ([1Pet 3:9](#)).

When we live like this as a community we will be a spiritual house and a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. When we show the true God to People by our word of proclamation and walk of patient love they will be attracted to come into this house of prayer and worship. God is looking for living stones that can become the building blocks for building this new community in His kingdom. May we all become those living stones in the hands of God like Peter who could become a big rock. May God help us and our churches to be model communities in this world as signs of His kingdom for many to come! Amen.

Life Application:

1. Those who read [Micah 6:8](#) can never again say, 'God has not told me what I have to do in this world.' Today God has told us what He expects from us. What are we going to do with it?
2. As disciples we have to learn to live up to the Sermon on the plain or Sermon on the Mount.
3. The two main functions of church are worship and witness.

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