

A LIFE WELL LIVED: DISCOVER THE REWARDS OF AN OBEDIENT HEART

DOING WHAT'S RIGHT

MICAH 6:1-8; ACTS 4:1-22; 5:16-42



The Heart of the Matter

In Micah 6:8, the bold prophet answered a question many people wonder about today: What does the Lord expect of us? Micah's answer is comprehensive: to do justice, to love kindness, and to walk humbly with our God. The first of these three expectations means to do what is right, regardless of the consequences. This kind of courageous obedience is illustrated for us in the lives of the first-century apostles.



Discovering the Way

1. Micah: A Major Minor Prophet

Micah called Judah's corrupt religious and political leaders to follow God's Word.

Micah 6:8 articulates three attitudes and actions that the Lord expects from His people.

2. The Lord Expects Us to Do What Is Right (Micah 6:1-8)

The Lord does not delight in empty religious rituals and sacrifices. Rather, God first expects us to do what is right, regardless of the consequences.

3. The Apostles' Example of Doing What Is Right (Acts 4:1-22; 5:16-42)

We need to become people who will always do what is right according to God's Word, regardless of warnings, threats, and consequences. Rather than being guided by others' opinions, our culture, or our feelings, we need to seek His will.

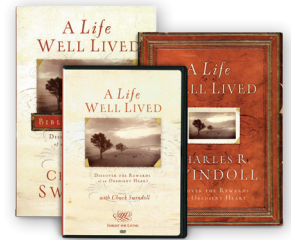


Starting Your Journey

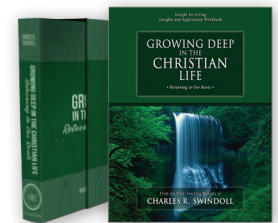
Three practical principles regarding doing what is right are worth remembering. First, it's necessary to know what's right. Second, it's wise to expect resistance. And third, it's reassuring to remember God is at work



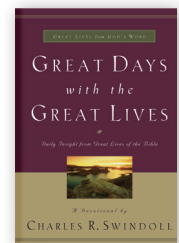
Tools for Digging Deeper



A Life Well Lived
by Charles R. Swindoll
softcover book, Bible Companion, and DVD



Growing Deep in the Christian Life
by Charles R. Swindoll
CD series and Bible Companion



Great Days with the Great Lives
by Charles R. Swindoll
hardcover devotional



Original outline and Message Mate copyright © 2007 by Charles R. Swindoll, Inc.
All rights are reserved worldwide. Duplication of copyrighted material for commercial use is strictly prohibited.
Committed to Excellence in Communicating Biblical Truth and Its Application

For related resources, please call:
USA 1-800-772-8888
AUSTRALIA 1300 467 444
CANADA 1-800-663-7639
UK 0800 787 9364
Or visit www.insight.org
or www.insightworld.org

A LIFE WELL LIVED: DISCOVER THE REWARDS OF AN OBEDIENT HEART

LOVING WHAT'S KIND
MICAH 6:8; GENESIS 50:1-21



The Heart of the Matter

Micah 6:8 reveals the second character quality of a life well lived: kindness—a quality often expressed in mercy or forgiveness. Few things catch the attention or remain in the memory more than such acts of unmerited kindness, but it sometimes seems that everything around us works to block those acts. Of all the biblical examples of amazing acts of kindness, Joseph's treatment of his brothers may shine the brightest.



Discovering the Way

1. God Expects Us to Love Kindness (Micah 6:8; Ephesians 4:32)

The Bible is filled with random acts of kindness by God's people. At the end of Paul's list of things that mark a Christian's life, he wrote, "Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you" (Ephesians 4:32).

2. Joseph's Example of Kindness (Genesis 50:1-21)

The story of Joseph's kindness toward his brothers when he had every reason for bitterness raises the bar for the way we think about and treat even those who mistreat us. Instead of revenge and retaliation, Joseph showed kindness and forgiveness.

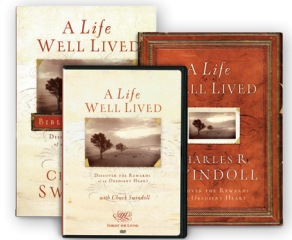


Starting Your Journey

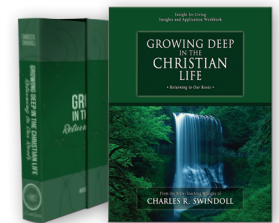
We can all learn much from Joseph with regard to demonstrating kindness. At least three practical lessons live on. First, when we realize we're not "in God's place," the desire for revenge fades away. Second, when we acknowledge God's sovereign hand in all that happens, the grip of bitterness is loosened. Third, when we are truly free of revenge and bitterness, there is plenty of room in our hearts for kindness.



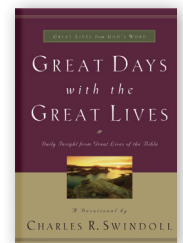
Tools for Digging Deeper



A Life Well Lived
by Charles R. Swindoll
softcover book, Bible
Companion, and DVD



**Growing Deep in the
Christian Life**
by Charles R. Swindoll
CD series and Bible Companion



**Great Days with
the Great Lives**
by Charles R. Swindoll
hardcover devotional

For related resources, please call:
USA 1-800-772-8888
AUSTRALIA 1300 467 444
CANADA 1-800-663-7639
UK 0800 787 9364
Or visit www.insight.org
or www.insightworld.org



Original outline and Message Mate copyright © 2007 by Charles R. Swindoll, Inc.
All rights are reserved worldwide. Duplication of copyrighted material for commercial use is strictly prohibited.
Committed to Excellence in Communicating Biblical Truth and Its Application

A LIFE WELL LIVED: DISCOVER THE REWARDS OF AN OBEDIENT HEART

MODELING WHAT'S HUMBLE

MICAH 6:8; 2 SAMUEL 16:5–14; PSALM 51:17



The Heart of the Matter

A silent battle rages in every one of us: the conflict between the sin of pride and the virtue of humility—the desire for significance versus the goal to be Christlike. We should not be surprised that when God led the prophet Micah to tell us what He expects of us, He included “Walk humbly with your God” (Micah 6:8). Contrary to popular opinion, humility—not self-promotion—marks the path of a life well lived.



Discovering the Way

1. God Expects Us to Walk Humbly (Micah 6:8)

God’s desire for His people to walk humbly with Him is not complicated or confusing . . . but it stirs up an age-old battle with our sinful pride and desire for significance and glory.

2. David’s Example of Humility (Psalm 51:17; 2 Samuel 16:5–14)

King David provides an example of a man who modeled humility through the crucible of crushing circumstances. The brokenness of David is poignantly expressed in Psalm 51:17 and profoundly exemplified in his twofold response to unjust ridicule (2 Samuel 16:5–14).

First, David considered God’s hand in the criticism.

Second, David refused to defend himself.

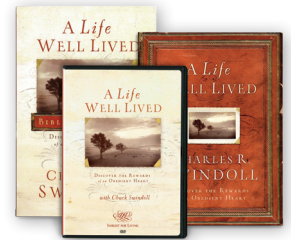


Starting Your Journey

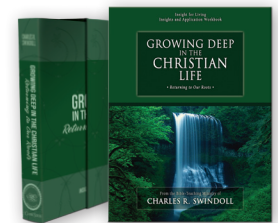
God’s desire for us to walk humbly leads to three practical benedictions. First, may we see pride as our archenemy. Second, may we embrace humility as our friend. Third, may we return to the cross where all people are equal.



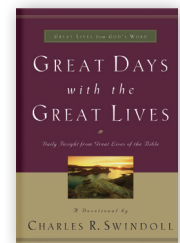
Tools for Digging Deeper



A Life Well Lived
by Charles R. Swindoll
softcover book, Bible Companion, and DVD



Growing Deep in the Christian Life
by Charles R. Swindoll
CD series and Bible Companion



Great Days with the Great Lives
by Charles R. Swindoll
hardcover devotional

For related resources, please call:
USA 1-800-772-8888
AUSTRALIA 1300 467 444
CANADA 1-800-663-7639
UK 0800 787 9364
Or visit www.insight.org
or www.insightworld.org



Original outline and Message Mate copyright © 2007 by Charles R. Swindoll, Inc.
All rights are reserved worldwide. Duplication of copyrighted material for commercial use is strictly prohibited.
Committed to Excellence in Communicating Biblical Truth and Its Application

A LIFE WELL LIVED: DISCOVER THE REWARDS OF AN OBEDIENT HEART

ENJOYING THE REWARDS

DANIEL 6:1-4



The Heart of the Matter

All of us need heroes to inspire and challenge us to live authentic lives of integrity. Centuries ago, one such hero of integrity kept himself afloat in the swamps of ethical compromise. His name was Daniel, and he serves as an example of authenticity for us to become heroes in our own generation. A life well lived not only inspires others but also results in great rewards both in this world and in the world to come.



Discovering the Way

1. The Need for Integrity

We live in an age in which people of integrity and authenticity are in short supply. Sadly, the behavior of Christians is only marginally better than that of unbelievers. The need for integrity has never been greater.

2. Daniel, a Man You Could Trust (Daniel 6:1-4)

Daniel's example of integrity shines brightly against a backdrop of spiritual and political corruption in ancient Babylon. And he serves as a model for us today.

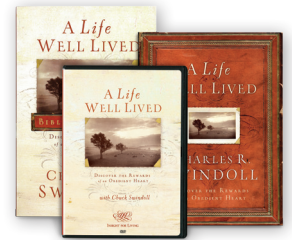


Starting Your Journey

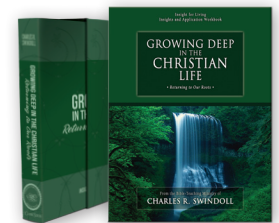
Six rewards accompany a life lived in integrity — 1) the sustained cultivation of exemplary character, 2) the continued relief of a clear conscience, 3) the personal delight of intimacy with the Almighty, 4) the priceless inheritance of a lingering legacy, 5) the rare privilege of being a mentor, and 6) the crowning reward of finishing well.



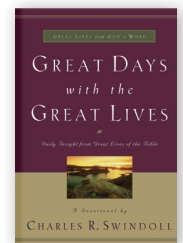
Tools for Digging Deeper



A Life Well Lived
by Charles R. Swindoll
softcover book, Bible
Companion, and DVD



**Growing Deep in the
Christian Life**
by Charles R. Swindoll
CD series and Bible Companion



**Great Days with
the Great Lives**
by Charles R. Swindoll
hardcover devotional

For related resources, please call:
USA 1-800-772-8888
AUSTRALIA 1300 467 444
CANADA 1-800-663-7639
UK 0800 787 9364
Or visit www.insight.org
or www.insightworld.org



Original outline and Message Mate copyright © 2007 by Charles R. Swindoll, Inc.
All rights are reserved worldwide. Duplication of copyrighted material for commercial use is strictly prohibited.
Committed to Excellence in Communicating Biblical Truth and Its Application