



“We Need Jesus”
Micah 6:6-8; Matthew 9:9-13
September 7, 2008

Introduction: We live in a culture that has mixed up the two words need and want. Now, we believe that if we want something, we really need it.

We need Jesus

It is interesting to see how Jesus describes Himself, for He uses imagery that reinforces how crucial He is to our lives. We need Jesus, just as we need Living Water for example. Here, Jesus tells us, *“It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick.”* Do we see ourselves as being healthy or sick? At the time, Jesus was being critiqued for who He ate with and spent time with. Jesus says, *“I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners.”* Luke expands on this in 5:32 and 19:10, to say Jesus has come to call *sinners to repentance* and that *“the Son of Man came to seek and save what was lost.”* The Psalms remind us of our great need for God, saying in 79:8, 116:6, 142:6, *“do not hold against us the sins of the fathers; may your mercy come quickly to meet us, for we are in desperate need...The Lord protects the simplehearted; when I was in great need, He saved me...Listen to my cry, for I am in desperate need.”* In the world today, we are told we should be self-sufficient. In the kingdom of God, we are invited to revel in our neediness for Jesus, for His grace, for His healing. Do you?

Needing Mercy

Scripture is full of the joy of reciprocal spirituality. That is, as we have been loved, so do we love; as we have been forgiven, so too should we forgive; as we have received mercy, so should we give mercy to others, for as Jesus tells us in Luke 6:36, *“Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.”* God wants us to be like Him, to model and to reflect His good and gracious character. Jesus tells us here, *“But go and learn what this means: ‘I desire mercy, not sacrifice.’”* Jesus is quoting from both Hosea and Micah. Hosea tells us in 6:6, *“For I desire mercy, not sacrifice, and acknowledgement of God rather than burnt offerings.”* In Micah 6:8, he tells us, *“He has shown you, O man, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.”* We need God's mercy, to remind us of who we are and of who we can become. God calls us to be merciful, as He is, to be agents of His mercy and grace to a sick and wounded world. Will we? Paul reminds us of who we can be, saying, in 1 Timothy 1:15-16, *“Here is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners-of whom I am the worst. But for that very reason I was shown mercy so that in me, the worst of sinners, Christ Jesus might display His unlimited patience as an example for those who would believe on Him and receive eternal life.”*