



7 July 2017/13 Tammuz 5777

Dear Shir Tikvah:

In this week's Haftarah, we read the famous words from the Prophet Micah:

הַגִּיד לְאָדָמָה טוֹבוֹמָה יְהוָה דְּרוֹרְשׁ מִמֶּךָ כִּי אִם-עֲשׂוֹת מִשְׁפָּט וְאֶהְבֵּת חֶסֶד וְהִצַּנְעַלְתָּ עִם-אֱלֹהֶיךָ: This is what Eternal One seeks from each of us: to do justice, to love compassion and kindness, to move humbly with God.

Three moral and spiritual tasks: to engage in the work of justice, to love with compassion and boundless kindness, to move with God. Micah's cry is for each of us-no one is exempt from this holy project of creating a relationship with the Divine by lifting our hands for justice and tenderness.

As we welcome Shabbat, an invitation to reflect upon the week gone by:

Where did we seek justice?

How were we kind?

In what ways did we seek Holy Presence greater than ourselves?

In the week ahead, an invitation: Commit to one act of kindness and compassion, not because we've been asked-because it is right. Commit to an act of justice-of tikkun-to make a bit more whole something in our community, our society, that is broken. Pause to contemplate what God is asking of you. And if Deistic language doesn't reverberate in your soul, pause for a moment each day to appreciate the creek, the lakes, the fruit on the trees, the blossoms, the rivers-the beautiful natural creation of our planet, a gift for us to treasure, a precious legacy to honor and to protect.

As Shabbat descends in Jerusalem, I lift my prayers for each of you: that you're inspired to work for justice, that you know compassion and kindness, that blessings flow from inside you and upon you.

Shabbat Shalom,  
Michael