

to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God

When I first started law school, I worked part-time at a huge multi-national law firm. During my first month, one of the partners in the firm came to my little cubicle and praised me for a memo that had been prepared. He told me that the legal precedents cited in the memo were going to be game changers in the legal briefs being prepared. I paused for a moment and then I told him that I had no idea what he was talking about. I hadn't prepared the memo that he referenced. Part of me wanted to take credit for the memo but the other part didn't want my employment to be based on taking credit for something that someone else had done. A week later, another clerk told me that it was a good thing I didn't take credit for that memo because the clerk who prepared it fabricated the legal precedents and was fired.

It was a great way for me to begin my adult-hood in the real world. Many times since then people have tried to give me credit for things that I didn't do. Although it's tempting to take a credit, I always give credit where credit is due.

Our reading today tells us that the path to salvation is to do justly, love mercy, and walk humbly. It reminds me in many ways of the Marriage Ceremony in the prayer book. When the bride and groom exchange rings, they say "I give you this ring as a symbol of my vow, and with all that I am, and all that I have, I honor you" Whenever I prompt the bride or groom to say these words, I almost always tear-up. What beautiful words and what an incredible roadmap for a happy marriage and a meaningful life.

The prophets, the apostles, and all who have come before us have basically told us that in order to follow Jesus we must offer to God all that we are and all that we have.

We can still be a lawyer and be saved but we need take a sense of being just, merciful, and humble into the office with us.

We can still be a landlord and be saved but we need to take a sense of being just, merciful, and humble into the community.

We can do whatever we are called to do; but to do it well we must take a sense of being just, merciful, and humble in all that it is we do.

The same applies to how we interact in our social relationships with friends.

The same applies to how we interact with the stranger who is my neighbor.

The same applies to how we treat our family.

God has given us all incredible and vastly different gifts. We can excel at these things and be just, merciful and humble.

God does not have a problem with people making money or acquiring things. It is when we make money or acquire these things by (in essence) selling our souls through fraud or deceit.

God doesn't ask for four hours or eight hours of our time each day. God asks for 24 hours a day, seven days a week, twelve months a year. God doesn't say "You're at work now so you can do whatever you want!" God says I want you to honor me with all that you are and all that you have all of the time.

As we go out into the world – either in person or on the telephone or by video conferencing, take God with you. Then strive to give God all that you are and all that you have.