

Micah 6:11

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Shall I count them pure with the wicked balances, and with the bag of deceitful weights?

Analysis

Shall I count them pure with the wicked balances, and with the bag of deceitful weights? God's rhetorical question demands answer: Can I consider people righteous when they use "wicked balances" (מַזְנֵי רָשָׁע, oznei resha)? Obviously not. "Wicked balances" are fraudulent scales rigged to cheat customers. "The bag of deceitful weights" (אַבְנֵי מִרְמָה, avnei mirmah) refers to carrying two sets of weights: heavy ones for buying (receiving more), light ones for selling (giving less). Mirmah (deceit, treachery) reveals moral character—not honest mistakes but calculated fraud.

Proverbs 20:23 states: "Divers weights are an abomination unto the LORD; and a false balance is not good." Notice the progression: first, divers weights are abomination; second, false balances aren't "good"—understatement intensifying the condemnation. God doesn't grade on a curve. He demands absolute honesty. The question "Shall I count them pure?" (הָאֶזְקֵה, ha-ezkeh) asks: Will I declare them righteous/innocent? Answer: Never. Religious activity cannot compensate for economic injustice. Jesus similarly condemned Pharisees who "devour widows' houses, and for a pretence make long prayer" (Mark 12:40).

This exposes a persistent heresy: compartmentalizing life into sacred and secular. People assume they can worship God on Sunday while exploiting others Monday-Saturday. Impossible. James 2:14-17 insists genuine faith produces works: "If a brother or sister be naked, and destitute of daily food, And one of you say unto them, Depart in peace, be ye warmed and filled; notwithstanding ye give them not

those things which are needful to the body; what doth it profit?" Faith without integrity is dead.

Historical Context

The prophets consistently linked economic justice with covenant faithfulness. Amos declared God hated Israel's feasts and assemblies because justice didn't "run down as waters, and righteousness as a mighty stream" (Amos 5:21-24). Isaiah commanded: "Cease to do evil; Learn to do well; seek judgment, relieve the oppressed, judge the fatherless, plead for the widow" (Isaiah 1:16-17). Hosea quoted God: "I desired mercy, and not sacrifice" (Hosea 6:6). Micah synthesized these themes in 6:6-8: God rejects elaborate offerings while demanding justice, mercy, and humility. Yet Israel persisted in religious performance without ethical transformation. The pattern repeats: every generation must guard against divorcing worship from obedience, piety from justice, belief from behavior.

Related Passages

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

1. In what areas of your life might you be guilty of using "wicked balances"—treating others unfairly while maintaining religious respectability?
2. How does God's refusal to "count you pure" while using deceitful practices challenge the temptation to compartmentalize faith and ethics?
3. What steps can you take to ensure absolute integrity in your business, professional, and financial dealings, reflecting God's character?

Interlinear Text

פָּאָזֶק הָ	בָּמְ אָזְנִי	בְּמַ שְׁעָ	וְבָכְ יִסְ	אַבְנֵי
Shall I count them pure	balances	with the wicked	and with the bag	weights
H2135	H3976	H7562	H3599	H68
מְרֻמָּה:				
of deceitful				
H4820				

Additional Cross-References

Hosea 12:7 (Parallel theme): He is a merchant, the balances of deceit are in his hand: he loveth to oppress.

Leviticus 19:36 (Parallel theme): Just balances, just weights, a just ephah, and a just hin, shall ye have: I am the LORD your God, which brought you out of the land of Egypt.

Proverbs 16:11 (Parallel theme): A just weight and balance are the LORD'S: all the weights of the bag are his work.

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