

# PULPIT DRIVEN DISCIPLESHIP



*Gray & Gold by Jack Rogers Cox;  
3' by 5'; Oil on canvas; 1942; The Cleveland Museum of Art.*

## **A study of the book of Micah**

### ***The Incomparable God: A Story of Forgiveness & Fidelity***

Purpose of Micah

“To call Judah to repentance and hope during the Assyrian crisis and to prepare Judah for the Babylonian exile by announcing God’s judgements against sin and his promise of restoration.”

*-Spirit of the Reformation Study Bible*

August 15, 2021

# “CHRIST-CENTERED MOURNING”

## Micah 1:8-16 ESV

For this I will lament and wail; I will go stripped and naked; I will make lamentation like the jackals, and mourning like the ostriches. **9** For her wound is incurable, and it has come to Judah; it has reached to the gate of my people, to Jerusalem. **10** Tell it not in Gath; weep not at all; in Beth-le-aphrah roll yourselves in the dust. **11** Pass on your way, inhabitants of Shaphir, in nakedness and shame; the inhabitants of Zaanan do not come out; the lamentation of Beth-ezel shall take away from you its standing place. **12** For the inhabitants of Maroth wait anxiously for good, because disaster has come down from the Lord to the gate of Jerusalem. **13** Harness the steeds to the chariots, inhabitants of Lachish; it was the beginning of sin to the daughter of Zion, for in you were found the transgressions of Israel. **14** Therefore you shall give parting gifts to Moresheth-gath; the houses of Achzib shall be a deceitful thing to the kings of Israel. **15** I will again bring a conqueror to you, inhabitants of Mareshah; the glory of Israel shall come to Adullam. **16** Make yourselves bald and cut off your hair, for the children of your delight; make yourselves as bald as the eagle, for they shall go from you into exile.

# Historical Context

“The prophet uses a lament genre to describe his own frantic reaction to the prospect of judgment. He goes barefoot and naked through the countryside of southwest Judah announcing the coming doom. Ten towns and cities are mentioned, with the seventh one being the centerpiece: Jerusalem. The text is a type of geographical “hit list,” as it targets for judgment a sequence of towns in Judah. There are major difficulties in the identification of these towns, and the Hebrew text is difficult to understand in places. But the general theme is impossible to miss. Micah begins by lamenting for the nation as he walks through the land, crying wildly like an animal (1:8–9). The towns and cities on the divine ‘hit list’ are then mentioned (vv. 10–15), and finally Jerusalem is commanded to wail and mourn for the loss of her youth as her people are led into exile (v. 16).” *ESV Expository Commentary: Micah*

## Big Idea

In a world where idols prove to be as contagious as they are destructive and deceptive, Christ-centered mourning is the only secure fallout shelter for the impending nuclear apocalypse of God's judgment.

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# Outline

1. The call to personal mourning

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2. The contagiousness of sin

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3. The call to corporate mourning

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4. The hope of a bright tomorrow

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5. Conclusion

**PRAISE TO JESUS**

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**REPENTANCE THROUGH JESUS**

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**CONSECRATION FOR JESUS**

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Scriptures for further study: Daniel 9:7, Psalm 97:10, Romans 12:9,  
Psalm 30:11, 1st Samuel 22:2

# DISCIPLESHIP DURING THE WEEK

These "Sermon Discussion Questions" are designed for study during the week for believers in a wide variety of ages & stages in their walk with Christ.

1. Tim Keller says that an idol is, "...anything more important to you than God, anything that absorbs your heart and imagination more than God, anything you seek to give you what only God can give." It is easy for us to see what others look to for significance rather than God. It is difficult to see how the same idols have captured our own hearts. What are the things we tend to share in common which we look to give us what only God can?

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2. How might our own sin affect someone else? Micah identified with his people. He did not see idolatry as a problem for "them". Perhaps one of the reasons is that the idolatry of some was causing the judgement of God on all. Micah's response was personal. What did he do? (verse 8). Micah was not complacent to sin. According to the sermon, complacency to sin is a symptom of what?

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3. In verse 9 the prophet Micah is comparing idolatry to a wound which acts like a viral infection in that the wound spreads. The wound caused by a lack of biblical faithfulness and doctrinal purity. What does it mean to be faithful to the Bible? What is the doctrine of our denomination is hint, hint, The Westminster Confession? What are some ways to assure biblical fidelity and doctrinal purity?

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## DISCIPLESHIP DURING THE WEEK

4. Micah is pointing to what is happening to God's people to the north in Israel. Micah is, warning the nation of Judah that if they don't wake up from their sinful slumber, repent, and act in faith, then they too will reap a crop from sowing sin. Sinful slumber is a state where we are unaware or even callous to the spiritual destruction we may be sowing in our own hearts, families, churches, and communities. How might we find ourselves in a state of sinful slumber?

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5. King David lived about 300 years before Micah. Before David was installed as King, he was on the run from Saul. He fled to Adullam. It was there that he built his army composed largely of misfits (1 Samuel 22:1). Verse 15 refers to a cave "city" called "Adullam". This literally means "place of rest". Micah is telling the people of Judah, that they will be fleeing from their cities to seek refuge in Adullam. How might the Lord be moving me or my family to a position where I might be in a place where I can see and hear Jesus better? Are there folks whom I regard lightly, because of the difficulty of their circumstances who might be members of the Lord's army?

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6. **Praise to Jesus -Reflect:** Like his father (great, great.... grandfather King David), King Jesus welcomes the disenfranchised and broken. No matter how lightly we may regard ourselves, it is what God's Word says about us that is good, true and right. "But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession...called...out of darkness." Jesus meets us in and calls us out of the caves of life "into his marvelous light". For this we have great reason to praise the Lord. **Each day:** In the morning this week, read 1st Peter 2:9 and take some time to be reminded of the wonderful realities of this passage, and praise the Lord for each aspect.

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## DISCIPLESHIP DURING THE WEEK

**7. Repentance through Jesus- Reflect:** Micah is pointing to what is happening to God's people to the north in Israel. He is warning the nation of Judah that if they don't wake up from their sinful slumber, repent, and act in faith, then they too will reap the sowing of sin.

**Pray:** To see that we are in a sinful slumber requires a work of the Holy Spirit. In at least one regard, we must concede that we dose off and become numb to sin. Let's with courage ask the Holy Spirit to show us how we have become numb to sin. Take some time in silent prayer to confess and seek Holy Spirit driven repentance.

**Each Day:** Why not set an alarm each mid-day this week to pray and seek clarity from the Lord about any places where we are sowing sin? As these realities are revealed confess them and seek the Holy Spirit's guidance towards the path of repentance

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**8. Consecration for Jesus-Reflect:** The word "consecration" means "to be in service to someone". Jesus' hand is extended to us each moment of the day. Just like Peter as he walked on the water (Matt. 14:28), we quickly forget who Jesus is and what He has done. We have been reminded through the sermon this week that while our eternal salvation may be secure in the moments we tend to let go of Jesus' hand and return to the sins which wreck us.

**Each Day:** At the end of each day this week, let's be reminded again that it was Jesus who held us through the day and He will hold us through the night. When we rise in the morning let's grab hold of His extended hand once again to have and to offer hope and help.

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# DISCIPLESHIP THROUGH DISCUSSION

## For Families and Young Children

If you want to connect with our family ministries, contact Pastor Ken ([kenc@fpcrome.org](mailto:kenc@fpcrome.org))

1. Remind your children that we are studying about the prophet Micah. Talk once again about how prophets delivered messages from God to His people. They were like ambassadors delivering official news from the King. You could play a game with your children by going to a different room of the house with one of your children. Then give your child that is with you a message to go and tell the rest of your family. That is an example of what prophets did for God.

2. Micah 1:8 gives us Micah's response to the message that he got from God that he was to deliver. That verse states that he would "lament and wail".

a. Ask your children if they remember something sad happening in one of their favorite movies. Examples could be from Toy Story how Woody got sad when Andy chose to play with Buzz Lightyear instead of him or from Frozen when Elsa and Anna's parents die, and they are left alone. Talk with your children about how they reacted to those sad stories.

b. Micah reacted to God's message of judgment with extreme sadness. That is what it means to lament. Talk with your children about how it is ok to be sad and to tell God that we are sad in our prayers. This shows that we care for God's people and that we trust in God's goodness and sovereignty.

Remind your children of God's promises to be with us always.

3. Ask your children how they react to someone telling them they did something wrong. Give them a good example and even a bad example of how you have reacted when given negative feedback.

a. One of the reasons God delivers messages of judgment is to call His people to repentance. Talk with your children about how they can confess their sins to God and ask for forgiveness. Make sure to tell them about what Jesus has done to pay the penalty for our sin and how He has given us the Holy Spirit to help us to live for Him.

b. Talk about how God's love and forgiveness of our sins leads us to praise and worship Him.

Scriptures for further study: Psalm 30:11, John 16:7-11, 1 John 1:8-9, Luke 7:36-50



# DISCIPLESHIP THROUGH DISCUSSION

## For Students

If you want to connect with our student ministries, contact Student Ministry Director Jimmy (jimmyl@fpcrome.org)

1. Have you experienced the effects of an idol in your life, and then found this place where life falls apart?
2. How can loss or suffering reveal our idols – the things on which we place our trust? When have you seen this in your own life?
3. Lament could be defined as “a prayer in pain that leads to trust” Why is Micah lamenting? What does it mean to lament?
4. How has your understanding of God and your love for him grown by considering this subject?
5. What other idols do you need to lament over?
6. How has lament helped you deal with your own grief, or how do you anticipate it helping in the future?
7. Why do you think Christians are reluctant to step into the pain of other people’s lives or into the pain of a community? What are the dynamics involved?
8. How does the life and story of Micah move you to appreciate Jesus more deeply and worship him?
9. How can you now help other people who are walking through a dark valley? What action steps do you need to take?

Scriptures for further study: Psalm 30:11, John 16:7-11, 1 John 1:8-9, Luke 7:36-50

# DISCIPLESHIP THROUGH DISCUSSION

## For Non Believers or New Believers

If you want to know more about Jesus and Christianity, contact Pastor Jonathan (jonathans@fpcrome.org)

1. When confronted with our sin, some people deny their sin (which is itself an evidence of sin), some justify or minimize their sin, and some shift blame to others. Do any of these approaches ever describe you?

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2. The Bible makes a distinction between godly sorrow and worldly sorrow (see 2 Corinthians chapter 7). Worldly sorrow amounts to grief or remorse for our sin, but with no accompanying change or progress beyond that, nor any faith in God. But godly sorrow leads to repentance (which means a change in heart and mind and behavior), which, when coupled with faith in God, leads to salvation, which in turn leads to joy in the Lord. Discuss these important distinctions. Ask God to give you a true godly sorrow.

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# DISCIPLESHIP THROUGH DISCUSSION

## For Non Believers or New Believers continued

If you want to know more about Jesus and Christianity, contact Pastor Jonathan (jonathans@fpcrome.org)

3. The Book of Micah is tough! It speaks a strong word of judgment, but remember that it comes from a place of love. God loves us too much not to point out our sin. He is not interested in your feeling, he is interested in your healing! Like a good doctor who points out our diseases, God lovingly points out the “cancer” of sin so that we will seek the “scalpel” of healing. He loves us so much that he wants us to be spared from eternal judgment, and avoid a permanent and eternal exile from him.

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4. When it comes to our spiritual and eternal destiny, this is based solely on our individual repentance and faith (see Ezekiel 18:1-32, especially verse 20). God does not make final judgment of anyone based on their parents’ or their nation’s sins. But this passage does encourage us to consider that God does look at people collectively in terms of communities or even nations. How might God look upon our local community or our nation? Do you think he would have cause to judge us as a whole? What role am I playing in these spheres?

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Scriptures for further study: 2 Corinthians 7 (see v.10)



FPC

ADULT DISCIPLESHIP MINISTRY

GOD'S WORD • GOD'S PEOPLE • GOD'S MISSION

## What is Pulpit Driven Discipleship?

"Discipleship from the pulpit to communities therein pressed into the head, heart and hands of image bearers of God every day."

**Pulpit Driven Discipleship** is the name of a process of discipleship. Discipleship begins on Sunday with the sermon faithfully preached by our pastors then the message of sermon is digested and pressed into the heart throughout the week through prayer reflection and discussion in the home or in smaller discussion groups. It is in this context that life transformation and growth occur.

The pastoral leadership team and the Adult Discipleship Ministry Team are excited to walk together this Fall through the message of the Book of Micah. Please prayerfully consider incorporating PDD as your primary means of discipleship. We believe that PDD is appropriate for individuals, couples, families, and groups of all kinds. This great resource can be found in the bulletin on Sunday, and will be available on-line and via email each week.

Director of Adult Discipleship Rob Davis welcomes discussion, questions, and comments of all kinds. Rob Davis 706-252-5216, RobD@fpcrome.org

### *About of the artwork*

*The artist painted Gray and Gold shortly after the United States joined the Second World War, and its image of amber waves of grain threatened by ominous storm clouds likely has symbolic overtones. The painting's foreground features an intersection of two dirt lanes, as well as a telephone pole emblazoned with political campaign posters. The artist seems to imply that American democracy is at a crossroads during this time of combat against the spread of fascism in Europe and Asia. Interestingly the work was inspired by the landscape around Cox's hometown of Terre Haute, Indiana, a location nicknamed "The Crossroads of America" due to the junction of major north-south and east-west national highways within its city limits.<sup>1</sup>*

<sup>1</sup><https://www.clevelandart.org/art/1943.60>