

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 29, 2021

“THE SHEPHERD-BREAKER”

Micah 2:12-13 ESV

12 I will surely assemble all of you, O Jacob; I will gather the remnant of Israel; I will set them together like sheep in a fold, like a flock in its pasture, a noisy multitude of men.

13 He who opens the breach goes up before them; they break through and pass the gate going out by it. Their king passes on before them, the Lord at their head.

Historical Context

“Historical context – “The Mosaic covenant and the Abrahamic covenant stood in tension with one another. The former threatened a sinful nation with death; the latter guaranteed Israel an everlasting status in God’s redemption through the judgement. The remnant plays a prominent role in a the hope oracles of Micah.” (NIDOTTE, 938.)

"The theme of judgement, which has been so prevalent in the opening section of Micah’s prophecy, now gives way to the themes of salvation and restoration through a remnant that God will preserve. It is to these things and the role of hope in the midst of judgement that we turn our attention to in the last verses of chapter 2. " Pastor Bill

Big Idea

In a world where temptation and judgement surround us, look to God's appointed Shepherd for shelter.

Outline

1. In a world where temptation and judgement surround us, look to God's appointed Shepherd for **shelter**.

2. In a world where temptation and judgement surround us, look to God's appointed Shepherd for **restoration**.

3. In a world where temptation and judgement surround us, look to God's appointed King for **redemption**.

Application: "If you find yourself in a place in life that feels like rock bottom, this passage is for you today...if you find yourself weary of life in a broken world under the curse of judgment, this message is for you...if you find yourself tempted to give up on God promises because you can't see any light shining in your current circumstances, then this message is for you...in world full of judgment and temptation, let me tell you that there is colossal, life-changing hope to be found in Jesus Christ. He is our Shepherd-King...He will gather, He will shelter, and He will restore. And so let's see how Christ-centered hope comes to us from this passage." Pastor Bill

GOSPEL APPLICATIONS:

Praise to Jesus - Would this text lead you to a greater praise to Jesus? Praise Him as our good shepherd as our King of kings...and for His provision of shelter, restoration, and redemption.

Repentance through Jesus – Would this text lead you to greater repentance in Jesus? For there are many things we look to in the life at times to shelter us, to restore us, and redeem us...what are those things in your life? Would you confess those things to the Lord and turn from them to Christ?

Consecration for Jesus – Would this text lead you to greater consecration for Jesus? Would you commit to running to Jesus for shelter this week when the temptation and judgment of this world surrounds you? Would you commit to continuing to make corporate worship a priority in your family as a means of teaching them about the blood bought restoration we experience in this life as we await the greater restoration in the new Jerusalem? Would you commit to looking to the Spirit of God to break through the temptations and sins that so easily entangle us so that we might run the race of life unhindered for the sake of His glory and the advancement of His kingdom?

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. From the sermon we find the reason that temptation and judgement surround us. What is it? Amid temptation and judgement God's people have hope. Who were God's people in Micah's day and who are God's people today? According to the Big Idea what are two aspects of the hope for God's people?

2. We have learned from the sermon that we have great hope in temptation and judgement. What is our hope? If we have such a hope, why do we still despair? In Philippians 2:12-13, Paul uses a curious phrase "work out your own salvation with fear and trembling for it is God who works in you..." We know no work we do will assure our salvation, rather it is the work of Jesus which saves. Our Shepherd is not only with us, by virtue of the power of the Holy Spirit our Shepherd is IN us! What Paul means is that with Salvation secure as God's children, it is a daily discipline to remind ourselves during temptation and judgement that we have options as to how we respond. What are the ways a Christian can respond?

3. Pastor Bill preached, "Through the life, death and resurrection of Jesus, there awaits for God's people a great gathering and assembling in the world to come... in the city of New Jerusalem...where unity, peace, and strength in the Lord will be restored forever." What does this mean for us who await the New Jerusalem? (Hint, hint, hint, corporate worship is that regular, visible sign of Jesus' work of gathering His people together with the Father, in the Son, by the Spirit.) How can this expand and inspire our view of regular attendance at corporate worship?

DISCIPLESHIP DURING THE WEEK

4. "The power of sin, the guilt of sin, that had a stronghold on mankind...but through his life death and resurrection, Jesus has broken through that stronghold," preached Pastor Bill. Has a particular sin got a stronghold on me or someone I love? "By His righteous life and atoning death, Jesus broke through the power of sin and death." There is no better time to confess and repent. Does guilt from previous sins which I have confessed still have power over me? What are steps that we can take to rest in the truth of Romans 8:1 Therefore there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus?

5. **Praise to Jesus-** Praise Him as our good shepherd as our King of kings...and for His provision of shelter, restoration, and redemption.

Reflect: Would this text lead you to a greater praise to Jesus?

As the Holy Spirit leads consider a morning prayer of praise to Jesus our good shepherd who has and will carry us, protect us, provide for us, restore us, and redeem us.

DISCIPLESHIP DURING THE WEEK

6. **Repentance through Jesus-** For there are many things we look to in the life at times to shelter us, to restore us, and redeem us...what are those things in your life?

Reflect- Would this text lead you to greater repentance in Jesus?

Pray: Would you confess those things to the Lord and turn from them to Christ?

At midday pray: At lunchtime, as the Holy Spirit leads, reflect and confess those things to which we reach to provide what only Jesus can. Perhaps, consider sharing this struggle with a close friend or family member who can regularly pray for you as well.

7. **Consecration for Jesus-Reflect:** Would this text lead you to greater consecration for Jesus? Would you commit to looking to the Spirit of God to break through the temptations and sins that so easily entangle us so that we might run the race of life unhindered for the sake of His glory and the advancement of His kingdom.

This Week: Would you commit to continuing to make corporate worship a priority in your family as a means of teaching them about the blood bought restoration we experience in this life as we await the greater restoration in the new Jerusalem?

At bedtime: Would you commit to running to Jesus for shelter in the morning and throughout the day when the temptation and judgment of this world surrounds you?

DISCIPLESHIP THROUGH DISCUSSION

For Families and Young Children

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

1. Micah 2:12-13 speaks of a future gathering of God's people after their exile. Ask your children about how they feel when they finally get to see their grandparents for a holiday like Christmas. Or perhaps how they feel when they get to see a friend who they have not seen in a while.
 - a. Ask them now about how they think the Israelites would feel about this future gathering.
2. In Micah's description of this future gathering, he mentions that God's people will be led like sheep (2:12) by a king (2:13). The imagery of a Shepherd King is common in the Old Testament and was fulfilled in Jesus.
 - a. Read these passages with your children and ask them how Jesus leads as a Shepherd King: John 10:11, Matthew 9:35-36, Mark 6:34-44.
3. Another way to talk about this passage with your children is to ask them about a time when something of theirs broke but was fixed. Maybe it was a set of Legos that came apart and was put back together or maybe a favorite blanket was ripped and got sewed back together.
 - a. God wants His people to know that there is still hope during His judgment of exile.
 - b. Look up some of the promises of God to us and ask your children how each one gives us hope. Some examples would be Matthew 28:20, Romans 8:31, Romans 8:38-39, and 1 John 1:9
4. As Christians our future hope is in the promise of Jesus that He will return and bring the new heavens and new earth. This is meant to change how we live now and strengthen us through the difficulties of our broken world.
 - a. Ask your children about a time when they were promised a future prize and how that changed their days before that got that prize. If they can't remember a time, then think of a prize such as a special dessert that you can promise to give them at the end of the day. Then after giving them the dessert or prize, ask them how their day was as they waited for the prize up.

Scriptures for further study: John 10:1-18, Revelation 21:1-6

DISCIPLESHIP THROUGH DISCUSSION

For Students

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

1. Do you recognize the description of yourself as sheep? In what way?

2. What comes to mind when you think about the relationship between the sheep and the Shepherd? Why do sheep need a Shepherd?

3. What does "the remnant of Israel" mean in verse 12? Who is that referring to?

4. Read Romans 11:26. What is the ultimate and complete fulfillment point to?

5. Look again at verse 13. The release from Jerusalem occurs in three stages. What are they? Who fails and who triumphs?

6. In verse 13 what does this future Liberator do for the remnant?

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. In contrast to the false prophets already mentioned (Micah 2:6-11), and the terrible leaders we will see in the upcoming passage (3:1-4), God is the true leader and the perfect King. Who is currently ruling your life? Is it you? Is it someone or something else? Will you entrust yourself to the one who alone can perfectly rule your life?

2. God describes himself here as the Shepherd who gathers his sheep. Shepherds do everything for their sheep, and sheep are totally dependent upon the shepherds. Do you recognize and acknowledge your absolute dependence on God? Will you follow the Shepherd and trust him to provide everything you need? Read John 10:1-18 and how Jesus describes himself there as the Good Shepherd who lays down his life for you and me!

3. As new believers, we know that the Lord is our Savior. But here he is also described as our King. Is he your Lord and King as well as your Savior? Are you humbly obeying him as the one who calls the shots in your life?

DISCIPLESHIP THROUGH DISCUSSION

For Non Believers or New Believers continued

4. Verse 13 speaks of “the One who breaks open.” This “Breaker” (also referred to as the King), can only be the Messiah himself, Jesus Christ. Throughout history, he has proven himself time and time again to be the one who breaks out on behalf of his people: smashing enemies, going before us with his guidance, bursting with blessings. Pray to receive him and then follow him as your Breaker.

5. These two hopeful verses (2:12-13) appear right in the middle of passages about judgment. Hope is often like that, embedding itself right in the middle of hardship and despair. How is our future hope of deliverance, and the future promises of blessing from the Lord, impacting and encouraging you right now in the way you are dealing with your present challenges and trials? Let that hope anchor you!



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.¹

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