

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

October 10, 2021

“GOSPEL PERSPECTIVE AND THE LORD’S PLAN”

Micah 4:9 - 5:1 ESV

9 Now why do you cry aloud? Is there no king in you? Has your counselor perished, that pain seized you like a woman in labor? **10** Writhe and groan, O daughter of Zion, like a woman in labor, for now you shall go out from the city and dwell in the open country; you shall go to Babylon. There you shall be rescued; there the LORD will redeem you from the hand of your enemies. **11** Now many nations are assembled against you, saying, “Let her be defiled, and let our eyes gaze upon Zion.” **12** But they do not know the thoughts of the LORD; they do not understand his plan, that he has gathered them as sheaves to the threshing floor. **13** Arise and thresh O daughter of Zion, for I will make your horn iron, and I will make your hoofs bronze; you shall beat in pieces many peoples; and shall devote their gain to the LORD, their wealth to the LORD of the whole earth. **1** Now muster your troops, O daughter of troops; siege is laid against us; with a rod they strike the judge of Israel on the cheek.

Historical Context - “In Micah’s lifetime two volatile forces were at work in Israel’s history: moral corruption within and the rising Neo-Assyrian Empire without.” (Waltke, Micah, 3)

“In chapters 4-5 seven oracles of hope revolve around the Messiah, who will rule over the remnant. In Micah’s time Jerusalem was surrounded by the Assyrian army which Israel’s king could not resist. Nevertheless, the remnant, holed up in Jerusalem, must not lose hope, for little Bethlehem, which at the beginning of the monarchy gave Israel its first true king, would once again give Israel a ruler. Until the remnant gives him birth, Israel will be abandoned without a king; but when he comes, the rest of his brothers will be converted and join the remnant. Then the Messiah will shepherd his flock and they will live securely.” (NITDOTTE, 939)

Big Idea

Since we have a certain hope in Jesus, we are freed to face our brokenness and to rest in God's grace.

Outline

1. Present and Future Distress (Micah 4:9-10a,11, 5:1)
 - a. Babylonian Exile
 - b. Assyrian invasion

2. Promise of God's Rescue (Micah 4:10b,12-13)

3. Gospel Applications:
 - a. We are freed to face the reality of our sin.
 - b. We are freed to face the reality of the world's brokenness.
 - c. We are freed to rest in God's grace.

Scripture Memory: "Micah expressed confidence that God would plead his cause and execute judgment for him (Mic. 7:9), he could not have seen how radically and truly God would do this—by sending his own Son to have judgment executed upon him." Gospel Transformation Study Bible

Through memorizing scripture be reminded moment by moment of God's forgiveness and of the hope that he will deliver!

Micah 7:9 I will bear the indignation of the LORD because I have sinned against him, until he pleads my cause and executes judgment for me. He will bring me out to the light; I shall look upon his vindication. (ESV)

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. What do you struggle with more: facing the reality of your brokenness and sin or facing the reality of God's amazing grace? Why? How does the certain hope found in the gospel of Jesus help us face these realities?

2. Why do you think the people of Judah were crying out for a king and counselor in verse 9? What was Micah trying to teach the people of Judah about the upcoming devastations from his usage of the imagery of a woman in labor in verses 9-10?

3. Micah 4:10b and 12-13 describe God's rescue during two devastating events in the history of God's people. What does this teach us about God and His character? How does this strengthen us in our faith journeys, in particular as we face struggles?

4. Read Galatians 5:1, Romans 5:8, 1 John 1:5-2:1, and Romans 8:1. How do these Scriptures help in the struggle against our sin? Take time this week meditate on the freedom we have in Christ and then ask God to give you the strength to be honest about particular struggles with sin.

DISCIPLESHIP DURING THE WEEK

5. Read Exodus 15:11, Lamentations 3:22-23, and Romans 8:35-39. How often do you think about God's grace? How would it change your perspective on life to be more aware of God's grace? How can you incorporate God's amazing grace into your prayer life? How can God's grace affect your job and your friendships and your marriage and your family?

Additional verses: 2 Kings 18:13-19:37, 2 Kings 25:1-21,
Isaiah 9:6, Psalm 30, Romans 8:28, and John 16:33.

DISCIPLESHIP THROUGH DISCUSSION

For Families and Young Children

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

1. This passage brings up two very sad events in the history of God's people while also showing God's faithfulness to His covenant promises. Talk to your children about times in your life that God has shown His faithfulness to you.
 - a. Read the following passages to remind your family of the promises that God has made us as Christians: Matthew 28:20, 1 John 1:9, Galatians 4:4-7, Philippians 1:6. Ask your children which of these promises means the most to you currently? Why?

2. Micah 4:12 speaks of how the opposing nations to Judah "do not know the thoughts of the LORD; they do not understand his plan". Isaiah 55:8-9 also speaks of God's thoughts being higher than ours. Ask your children what that means. Ask them what we can know about God and not know about God.
 - a. This is a good time to remind your children that God has revealed Himself to us in His Creation (Psalm 19:1-6) and in His Word, the Bible. The Bible is God's special revelation that tells us who God is and His redemption plan (2 Timothy 3:15-17).
 - b. Ask your children what is something we learn about God from nature and something we learn about God from the Bible.

3. God was trying to strengthen the people of Judah with His message of hope from Micah 4. This week's passage seeks to strengthen the people of Judah as they face two very difficult situations. Ask your children about something that they are nervous or scared about such as test at school or a doctor appointment. Talk with them about how it might be tempting to try to not think about or to forget about these things that make us nervous. But God instead wants us to be strengthened to face these situations with His presence and peace. Take time to pray about the upcoming week and ask God to remind us of His promised presence with us.

Scriptures for further study: Psalm 30, Philippians 4:4-7, John 16:33

DISCIPLESHIP THROUGH DISCUSSION

For Students

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

1. How do you tend to deal with the existence of pain in your life? Do you think those reactions are helpful, unhelpful, or a mixture?
2. How does the analogy of a women in labor help you to view your pain, or the pain of those you love, today?
3. There is a wonderful passage in Isaiah 42 that talks about the suffering servant, the Messiah: "A bruised reed he will not break, and a faintly burning wick he will not quench" (Isaiah 42: 3) What do you think this means and how does it relate to our passage this morning?
4. Have you experienced a time of suffering from which you can see how God used it to build you, refine you, or restore you?
5. "Pain and suffering are not a sign of the absence of God. They are a place in which to experience the presence of God." How does this transform our view of difficult times?
6. Do you know a fellow Christian who is a bruised reed? How will you point them to Jesus in order to encourage them?

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. Four times in just these six verses, Micah uses the word “now”. There was a very present darkness and agony that the people were going through right at that moment. What challenges and hardships are you currently going through? Some of the troubles we face in life are self-inflicted (as was the case with Micah’s audience) and some are not. What is your situation?
2. As a follow-up question: to whom are you turning for help with your problems? Micah encouraged the people to hang in there because the Lord was their true king and counselor. Are you looking to the Lord to be your strength and wisdom? Are there any false supports that you have been looking to instead?
3. As believers, we know that God has promised us a wonderful future. How are you allowing that hope to inform the way you look at and deal with your present circumstances?
4. Does it comfort you to reflect on God’s justice? Specifically, the fact that one day God will come to judge all wickedness, and turn the tables on those who are hostile towards God and God’s people?