

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

September 5, 2021

“REBUILDING OUR OWN HOUSE”

Micah 2:12-13 ESV

And I said: Hear, you heads of Jacob and rulers of the house of Israel! Is it not for you to know justice? — **2** you who hate the good and love the evil, who tear the skin from off my people and their flesh from off their bones, **3** who eat the flesh of my people, and flay their skin from off them, and break their bones in pieces and chop them up like meat in a pot, like flesh in a cauldron. **4** Then they will cry to the Lord, but he will not answer them, he will hide his face from them at that time, because they have made their deeds evil.

Historical Context

“Historical context – In the first two chapters, Micah speaks a word of judgment against Judah as a whole. Here in chapter 3, those judgments become more focused on the leadership of the nation, specifically: the nation’s rulers (verses 1-4); the false prophets (verses 5-8); the rulers, priests, and prophets (verses 9-12). Each section focuses on the word “justice”. Each section is the same length. And each section has the same format: 1) address; 2) accusation; 3) all seek answers from the Lord; 4) there is no answer except a sentence of judgment from the Lord. (Walter Kaiser)

Big Idea

God’s just judgments are sometimes addressed to the whole nation and sometimes addressed to specific groups, but heeding them leads to renewal among God’s people

Outline

1. Setting the context.

2. God's accusation towards rulers.

3. God's judgment against rulers.

4. Contemporary application.

GOSPEL APPLICATIONS:

Praise to Jesus -

Repentance through Jesus -

Consecration for Jesus -

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. Why does God single out rulers for special judgment? Are there some people whom God holds to a higher standard? If so, why?

2. How does this description of abysmal leadership (Micah 3:1-4) contrast with Micah 2:12-13? Why does God place these two side by side?

3. How is the situation in Micah's day with respect to hating good and loving evil (verse 2), true to our contemporary context?

4. Read the following verses regarding God's concern for justice towards the needy and the poor. No, seriously, read all of these verses, and let it sink in! Leviticus 19:9-10; Leviticus 19:15; Leviticus 25:35-36; Deuteronomy 15:7-8; Deuteronomy 15:10-11; Psalm 82:3-4; Psalm 140:12; Proverbs 14:21; Proverbs 14:31; Proverbs 17:5; Proverbs 19:17; Proverbs 21:13; Proverbs 22:22-23; Proverbs 29:7; Isaiah 58:6-10; Isaiah 61:1; Matthew 25:31-46; Luke 14:12-14; James 1:27; James 2:2-4; 1 John 3:17-18 .

This is just a small sampling of Scriptures regarding God's concern for the poor. Why does God repeatedly encourage us to show kindness and justice to the poor, and why does He thunder against injustice and exploitation, or lack of concern, for those in need?

DISCIPLESHIP DURING THE WEEK

5. As you ponder 1 Peter 4:17, what general or targeted and specific accusations might God bring against the broader church in America today? Remember the seven letters Jesus wrote to the seven churches in Revelation chapters 2-3? If Jesus were to write a letter to the American church today, what do you think it would say? What would He say to our church? If He wrote a letter to you personally, how might that read?

Praise to Jesus

Reflect & Pray: Unlike the rulers in Micah 3:1-4, praise God that He is, instead, the one described in Micah 2:12-13, as the perfect Ruler, Shepherd, King, and the One who Breaks open a way of salvation for you.

Repentance through Jesus-

Reflect & Pray: Be grateful that in Christ, God no longer “hides His face from us because of the evil we have done” (Micah 3:4). Nor does he, according to Psalm 103:10, “treat us as our sins deserve or repay us according to our iniquities”. But let us repent of our sins, individually and perhaps corporately, before the ultimate Judge who is both just and merciful. Let us seek to remove anything in our lives, particularly our unkindness towards others, that may currently be hindering our relationship with the Lord.

Consecration for Jesus

Reflect & Pray: By the grace of God and the power of the Holy Spirit, let us recommit ourselves and our families (“as for me and my household”—Joshua 24:15), to the worship and service of our Lord. And let us work always for the beauty and vitality of His bride, the Church.

DISCIPLESHIP THROUGH DISCUSSION

For Families and Young Children

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

1. Ask your children who Micah is talking about in the passage by looking at Micah 3:1. He refers to “heads of Jacob” and “rulers of the house of Israel”. This is similar to the judgment passage from Micah 2:1-5. Micah is condemning those in power and those leading the people of Judah.
 - a. As a follow-up ask your children if they can name a character from one of their favorite books or tv shows that is a good leader. Ask them why they chose that character.
 - b. Then read Philippians 2:1-11 together and ask your children about what Jesus did that got Him exalted and the name above all other names. Jesus emptied Himself and served to point of death for us. He is the ultimate leader.

2. Micah is once again delivering a tough message of judgment. He points out the horrible behavior and actions of the leaders in Micah 3:2-3. Remind your children that one of the reasons God sends His prophets to deliver these words of judgment is to draw His people to repentance.
 - a. Remind your children that God’s standard for judgment is His Law, not some arbitrary set of rules that changes over time. Talk with your children about how frustrating it would be to play a game if there were no rules or if the rules constantly changed.
 - b. This is another good time to talk about repentance. It is something God the Holy Spirit draws us to do when He convicts us of our sin (John 16:7-11) and causes us to turn to Jesus (Matthew 11:28-30).

3. Ask your children to explain Micah 3:4 and why God would not answer the prayers of His people. (It was because of their sins.)
 - a. Ask your children how they feel about that and why.
 - b. Ask them whether our sins might have the same outcome for our prayers. Why or why not?
 - c. This is a great chance to talk about the good news (gospel) of Jesus Christ that Jesus took the punishment for sinners with His death and with His resurrection He is victorious over sin and death. Then read Hebrews 4:14-16 and talk about how God says that we can pray to Him boldly because of Jesus.

Scriptures for further study: Isaiah 6:1-7, Romans 1:16,
Romans 5:6-8, 1 Peter 2:9-10

DISCIPLESHIP THROUGH DISCUSSION

For Students

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

1. How does Micah's central message to the religious leaders in verses 1-4 translate to us today? These leaders were guilty of having a corrupt and callous lifestyle. Read Isaiah 1:17 where the prophet addresses the rulers in Jerusalem. What's the leader's responsibility?

2. What is God's response to misused power in verse 4?

3. How would you describe a leader? What does it mean to lead?

4. Power is a gift that can be stewarded for the good of mankind but also misused. What mistaken views of power have you seen, in your own life or in the lives of those around you?

5. In what ways could we possibly be misusing our power and privilege for personal gain, while minimizing and demeaning others who have less rank and fewer resources?

6. What privileges do you enjoy, and what power does that bring you?

7. What would it look like to use the influence that you have for the good of others, rather than your own gain?

8. How can you steward the influence or impact that you have at school and home for the Kingdom of God?

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. The example set by the leaders referred to in these verses (Micah 3:1-4), is abysmal. Though not every leader is this awful, it should serve as a caution to never put our full confidence and trust in any earthly leader. And it should point us back to Micah 2:12-13, where we see the only true and perfect leader. Let me encourage you, once again, to put your trust in the One described here as the Shepherd, the King, the One who breaks open a way. Would you follow Him as your Shepherd, who will faithfully provide, heal, lead, and protect you? Would you bow down to Him as your rightful King and Lord? And do you desire a breakthrough in your life? Then, let Him break into your life with His saving grace, and break open a new way for you to live.
2. Maybe one of your hang-ups with Christianity is that you have not seen many genuine Christians, or perhaps you have even been hurt by Christians you have known. Micah 3:1-4 shows us that God was not too impressed with some religious types either. Jesus had some pretty harsh things to say to the religious leaders and Pharisees of His day as well. Remember, first, that not everyone who claims to be a believer really is a believer. Secondly, even if we are believers, we do still struggle with sin. I for one need to confess my sin to God regularly. And I do need to apologize often for not living my life in a way that pleases God or sets a good example for others. Thirdly, consider what one author wrote: "The basis for evaluating Christ must be Christ, not Christians. Humans are humans, but Jesus claimed to be God. The perfect person and teachings of Jesus are the foundation on which to evaluate Christianity".
3. Micah 3:4 speaks of a temporal judgment that God would render against those who were evil: He would turn His face from them because of the evil they had done. But the Bible also tells us in the most sobering terms that those who do not believe in Christ and remain in their sin will face an eternal judgment in which God will forever turn His face away, and not allow us into His presence. So I implore you to confess your sin, seek His saving grace, and know that in Christ He offers you His smiling face and his favor, both now and for eternity!