

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 31, 2021

“GOSPEL DISCIPLINE”

Micah 5:7-15 ESV

7 Then the remnant of Jacob shall be in the midst of many peoples like dew from the LORD, like showers on the grass, which delay not for a man nor wait for the children of man. **8** And the remnant of Jacob shall be among the nations, in the midst of many peoples, like a lion among the beasts of the forest, like a young lion among the flocks of sheep, which, when it goes through, treads down and tears in pieces, and there is none to deliver. **9** Your hand shall be lifted up over your adversaries, and all your enemies shall be cut off. **10** And in that day, declares the LORD, I will cut off your horses from among you and will destroy your chariots; **11** and I will cut off the cities of your land and throw down all your strongholds; **12** and I will cut off sorceries from your hand, and you shall have no more tellers of fortunes; **13** and I will cut off your carved images and your pillars from among you, and you shall bow down no more to the work of your hands; **14** and I will root out your Asherah images from among you and destroy your cities. **15** And in anger and wrath I will execute vengeance on the nations that did not obey.

Historical Context - God intends Judah's exile to be a time of purification from their dependence on worldly power, occult knowledge, and false idols. He will preserve a remnant through this time of purification. ESV Gospel Transformation Study Bible

Horses and chariots were symbolic of a nation's military strength. Therefore a nation's confidence in its own strength was placed on the power of its military.

There are several terms for magic in Scripture (e.g., divination, sorcery, and necromancy), as it was a major issue in the Israelite world. All forms were punishable by death under OT law. The Babylonians believed that magic had a divine origin, yet even their gods had to use incantations in order to obtain their desired outcomes. ESV Archeological Study Bible

Big Idea

Gospel discipline is the rocket fuel the Father uses to propel the bride of His Son forward in her calling to bless and battle the world in the Spirit.

Outline

1. Purging (God's action of discipline): verses 10-14

2. Blessing (The church's action of blessing the world): verse 7

3. Battling (the church's action of battling the world): verses 8-9

Gospel Applications:

Repentance through Jesus for the many ways in which we ignore God's calling to bless and battle the world and for the times in which we become fixated on receiving a blessing instead of giving, and for the moments where we chose to follow the things of this world instead of battle against them.

Praise to Jesus that He loves us enough to address that which is destructive to us and that His discipline and temporal judgments are an aspect of His love for us.

Consecration for Jesus that as we consider the embarrassingly glorious blessing we have obtained in Jesus Christ, to rededicate ourselves to blessing those around us and beyond us, despite their response to us...to rededicate ourselves to challenging every sphere of culture with the truth of God's word., including our homes, neighborhoods... our classmates and teammates...in the classroom at the workplace...in the public square and beyond.

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. A rocket flies fast and straight when it has no extras attached to it. Trials and difficulties are meant to purify God's people. What does Gospel discipline look like in Church? What might God be showing His bride, the Church (in American over the past 24 months). What messages from the Bible can we preach to ourselves to place our challenges in their proper context (Titus 2:14)?

2. God was going to cut off the false lifelines to which his people had turned to... what are the false lifelines in your life? What are those things in your own heart that you look to for confidence and security? Is it your physical health? If so, what happens to your heart when you get the phone call from the doctor saying it doesn't look good. Will that confidence simply shake you or will it absolutely devastate you? How about your pursuit of the American dream for your kids? Is your kid's prosperity around which you have built your life? What happens when your kid says they're going to be a missionary? What happens when they feel that God may not be calling them to go to college? The answer to these questions and so many more is critical to discovering in what we are ultimately trusting? And like the people of God in the OT, maybe we too need a purging of those false lifelines in our own lives?

(Maybe some of us are experiencing that purging right now...may you see it primarily as an extension of God's love more so than His anger.)

3. Have I allowed the expression of my faith to be reduced solely to church attendance on Sunday? What are the outward signs of my faith during the week? In what ways can I expand my outreach in my workplace and be a blessing to my coworkers? What am I known for in my working world? In my home-life or in my apartment complex are my attitudes and actions consistent with my actions and attitudes at church?

DISCIPLESHIP DURING THE WEEK

Praise to Jesus - Reflect & Praise: Jesus loves us enough to address that which is destructive to us His discipline and temporal judgments are an aspect of His love for us. Praise the Lord for the burdens that he has removed which at one time seemed important and, now that they are gone, you have space to hear Jesus and see His work in your life like never before!

Repentance through Jesus - Are there ways that I have become fixated on receiving a blessing instead of giving or being a blessing? Are there moments where I have chosen to follow the things of this world instead of battling against them? Is there something destructive in my life which the Lord is removing for my life for my good? Am I letting this destructive thing go? Have I become embittered towards God because I have not seen His purifying work in my life as evidence of His love? **Reflect & Pray:** Ask the Holy Spirit to lead you to genuine repentance. 1 John 1:9 invites reminds us that at any time we can confess our sins and be forgiven.

Consecration for Jesus - Let us rededicate ourselves to blessing those around us and beyond us, despite their response to us...to rededicate ourselves to challenging every sphere of culture with the truth of God's word., including our homes, neighborhoods...our classmates and teammates...in the classroom at the workplace...in the public square and beyond. **Reflect:** Pray, "Lord how might the head, heart and hands with which you have overwhelming blessed me, be a blessing to others?" **Each day:** Consider time spent away from home, as a mini-mission trip in which you are on an adventure with Jesus through the power of the Holy Spirit to bless folks in the places where you go.

Additional verses: Psalm 20:7, Hebrews 12:6, Matthew 5:13 &14, Romans 12:14, 1st Peter 2:11 & 3:9, Acts 1:6-8 & 14:22, 2 Corinthians 1:15-16, Titus 2:14, 2 Tim. 3:14, Phil 3:20, Rev. 20:1-4, Romans 8:1

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 5:7-8 mentions a remnant that God will save. Micah also mentions this remnant in Micah 4:7. Ask your children if they know what the word, remnant, means.

- a. You could use an illustration such as this weekend if they get a lot of candy and decide to save a little bit of their candy to enjoy later. That small group of candy that they saved would be a remnant of the total amount of candy that they received.
- b. Remind your children that Micah's prophecies about God saving a remnant would have given His people hope during the exile that that nation of Judah was about to face.

2. The phrase, "in the midst of many peoples" is repeated twice in this passage (Micah 5:7,8). The prophet is reminding God's people that He was sending them out from the Holy Land. He gives them two images of what their lives would be like in exile in Micah 5:8b-9.

- a. The first image from Micah 5:8b is that of a lion among other animals in the forest.
- b. The second image from Micah 5:9 is that of a victorious battle.
- c. Ask your children how they would feel if they were told that they were about to go on trip that would be tough, but that they would make it to their destination successfully and have a great time. .

3. Micah 5:10-14 tells of what God will do in His people as they live in exile. We read that God will “cut off” and “root out” certain parts of their lives that were in opposition to God’s Law and therefore harmful to them. This is God’s purifying or sanctifying work as He re-makes us more and more back into His image.

- a. If you all carved a pumpkin recently, then talk with your children about the process of clearing out the inside and then cutting the shapes into the pumpkin.
- b. If you all have a Play-Doh set in which you can shape it into different things such as kitchen tools or food shapes or animal shapes. Talk with them about the Play-Doh that gets taken away in order to form the shape.
- c. Talk with your children about how sin comes from inside of us (Mark 7:21-23). The Bible calls it our heart. It is that part of us where we make decisions. It is the role of the Holy Spirit to show us the places in our hearts that need to be “cut off” or “rooted out” in order to make us resemble Jesus.
- d. Take time to pray for each member of the family that the Holy Spirit reveal those parts of us that are not following Christ and ask the Spirit to give us strength to live for Him.

Scriptures for further study: 1 John 3:2, Romans 8:29, Colossians 3:1-4

DISCIPLESHIP THROUGH DISCUSSION

For Students

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

1. God makes a promise in Micah 5:7. Who is the “remnant” referring to?
2. Verse 10-14 deal with the sins of self-sufficiency, pride and idolatry. We fear many times being dependent upon others. We want to care for ourselves. Why do we need to be rescued from ourselves?
3. Israel had developed all kinds of strategies to avoid the indignity of needing to be rescued. What is God’s response to their self-help strategies?
4. Are you fearful of being dependent upon someone else? What would your prayer life suggest is the answer to that question? If you fear dependence, how does this affect your relationship with God?
5. How is Jesus a better Savior than the things that rival him in your life or society? How will this motivate you to worship and live for him alone?

*Selected questions borrowed and adapted from: Micah for You by Stephen Um

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 our passage, Micah describes what it is like when God's people live their lives under the rulership of God. One holy consequence is that God purges us of evil. Four times (in verses 10-14), it says God destroys or cuts off our sin. What are some sins in your life that God would cut out, and for which you and I must repent? Colossians 3:5 says that we must put our sin to death. What sins do you and I need to get serious about putting to death?

2. The sins mentioned in Micah 5:10-14 have to do with things like self-sufficiency, pride, and idolatry. These can often be harder to detect than some of the more outward and obvious sins. Ask God to show you what you may be relying on, or trusting in, or even worshiping other than God? Read Mark 10:17-27 for a great illustration of a man (the "Rich Young Ruler") who even seemed very good and spiritual, but whose ultimate trust was in his great wealth.

3. Micah 5:7-9 describes how when God's people are renewed, it has a great and varied effect on people in the world around us. For some people, Christians will be like dew that is refreshing. For others, Christians will come across as a lion that is threatening. Or, as Paul says in 2 Corinthians 2:16, to some people we will smell like life and to others we will smell like death. Why might this be the case? What examples can you give?

4. God makes his salvation known to all peoples, and many will indeed come to him. But Micah 5:15 also makes clear that God will bring his righteous judgment on those nations who do not obey him. Let us continue to proclaim and spread the gospel into all the world, that many more might bend the knee, and enter into God's kingdom. We pray that none might perish but all come to repentance and have life. (2 Peter 3:9; John 3:16)

****What is Church Discipline?**

- In the broadest sense, church discipline is everything the church does to help its members pursue holiness and fight sin. Preaching, teaching, prayer, corporate worship, accountability relationships, and godly oversight by pastors and elders are all forms of discipline.
- In a narrower sense, church discipline is the act of correcting sin in the life of the body, including the possible final step of excluding a professing Christian from membership in the church and participation in the Lord's Supper because of serious unrepentant sin (see Matt. 18:15-20, 1 Cor. 5:1-13).

Where is it in the Bible?

- The New Testament commands corrective discipline (excluding unrepentant sinners from the fellowship of the church) in passages like Matthew 18:15-17, 1 Corinthians 5:1-13, 2 Corinthians 2:6, and 2 Thessalonians 3:6-15.
- The New Testament speaks about formative discipline (our efforts to grow in holiness together) in countless passages about pursuing holiness and building one another up in the faith, such as Ephesians 4:11-32 and Philippians 2:1-18.

Why is Church Discipline important?

- Think of discipline as the stake that helps the tree grow upright, the extra set of wheels on the bicycle, or the musician's endless hours of practice. Without discipline, we won't grow as God wants us to. With discipline, we will, by God's grace, bear peaceful fruit of righteousness (Heb. 12:5-11).

*** <https://www.9marks.org/about/the-nine-marks/>



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>