

# 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*

November 7, 2021

# "THE REMEDY FOR SPIRITUAL LETHARGY"

## Micah 6:1-8 ESV

Hear what the LORD says: Arise, plead your case before the mountains, and let the hills hear your voice. **2** Hear, you mountains, the indictment of the LORD, and you enduring foundations of the earth, for the LORD has an indictment against his people, and he will contend with Israel. **3** "O my people, what have I done to you? How have I wearied you? Answer me! **4** For I brought you up from the land of Egypt and redeemed you from the house of slavery, and I sent before you Moses, Aaron, and Miriam. **5** O my people, remember what Balak king of Moab devised, and what Balaam the son of Beor answered him, and what happened from Shittim to Gilgal, that you may know the righteous acts of the LORD." **6** "With what shall I come before the LORD, and bow myself before God on high? Shall I come before him with burnt offerings, I with calves a year old? **7** Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams, with ten thousands of rivers of oil? Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?" **8** He has told you, O man, what is good; and what does the LORD require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?

**Historical Context** - Welcome to the courtroom of the LORD. On trial are God's people who have broken their covenant with the LORD. The attorney for the Lord is the prophet Micah, and the attorney for the defense...is none other than Jesus Christ. Jesus will be the advocate for the people, He will be take their place on stand, He take as His own the judgement, "guilty", and will bear the penalty.

"God's insistence that the trial should be heard, not just in public, but in the presence of the mountains and hills, underlines His intention that His dealings with His covenant people should be in the public domain." David Prior

"In Micah's day, increasing affluence led to increasing callousness and eventually blatant disregard of foundational laws from God...His people had managed to perfect the perennial heresy of compartmentalizing their religious beliefs and practices from their daily occupations and business." David Prior

In their affluence, they were seeking to buy God off...they thought religious activity brought about a right relationship with God despite how they were living.

# Big Idea

The regular reminder of the greatness of God's redemption in Jesus Christ through preaching is His essential remedy for spiritual lethargy and rebellion in the Church.

## Outline

### 1. Problem

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### 2. Reminder

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### 3. Response

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## **Gospel Applications:**

**Repentance through Jesus** of any or the many ways that we have allowed our material possessions, or our status in society, or our accomplishments or anything else to cause us to be satisfied and lethargic to the concerns of God.

**Praise to Jesus** for He loves us the most and knows us the best. Through Micah, He is speaking to us plainly of His love for us and of how we can be united with Him. All praise is due to Jesus for loving us to call out our sin and then for actually offering for us His sinless life as the Sacrifice for our sin.

**Consecration for Jesus** One scholar writes: "It is only by applying ourselves to walk humbly with your God that we can begin to practice justice and kindness. This is also what it means to love God with all your heart, mind, soul, and strength and love your neighbor as yourself." – David Prior To that end let us consecrate ourselves today. Let us conform our lives to God's Word on Sunday and every day of the week.

**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.

*Before thinking through these questions, pause and reflect on the reality that our Father in heaven loves us the most and knows us the best and it is in this context of love that the book of Micah has been written.*

1. What does it mean to be lethargic? What were the factors which contributed to the spiritual lethargy of God's people? From the Big Idea what is the remedy? Read Acts 2:37. The people of Judah, did not respond to Micah's message the way that people in the passage from Acts did. What are the many ways that we can respond to the message of redemption through proclamation of Jesus Christ in preaching?

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2. The Problem. Look at verses 6-7: 6 "With what shall I come before the Lord, and bow myself before God on high? Shall I come before him with burnt offerings, with calves a year old? 7 Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams, with ten thousands of rivers of oil? Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?" What sometimes happens when we attempt to purchase gifts for people we don't know? Read each verse and compare how magnitude or weight of the each gift. What was the problem? What "gift" was God really looking for? What does repentance mean and how does it happen?

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## DISCIPLESHIP DURING THE WEEK

3. Reminder. The rationale of man driven sacrifice found in verses 6-7 is founded in a man centered ideology which thinks in terms of the currency of the world. Each sacrifice mentioned is more extravagant than the one before the ultimate sacrifice is considered. Consider and discuss the irony of the last part of verse 7 "Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?" Look up Romans 4:25 to help with this discussion. What is it that the Lord wants to remind the people of Judah and the Church today as well?

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4. Response. God calls His people to respond to His grace. God did not ask us to give our firstborn for our transgression; rather, He gives us His firstborn! Matthew Henry writes: "The good which God requires of us is not the paying of a price for the pardon of sin and acceptance with God, but doing the duty which is the condition of our interest in the pardon already purchased."

From the sermon we understand, "God doesn't demand our money...he demands our lives...not for grace, but in response to grace." What does Micah show us are indicators of a Gospel response to grace (see Micah verse 8)? Read John 14:23 and Romans 12:1. How could the people of Judah get from a place of considering potential worldly sacrifices (a place of pride) to actually being in a place of understanding God's heart (responding in humility)? How does the love of Christ produce humility with God resulting in justice and kindness?

(The questions raised by the message of this sermon compel one to sincere heart reflection. This type of reflection starts with humility before God offered in sincere prayers of confession and repentance. Should this type response seem impossible for your current disposition please reach out to any of the Pastors referenced throughout this booklet).

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## DISCIPLESHIP DURING THE WEEK

**Praise to Jesus** - for God did not ask us to give our firstborn for our transgression; rather, He gives us His firstborn! (Rom. 4:25) And we can be live humbly with Him and with others as we lay down our lives through gospel driven kindness and justice. **Reflect:** Holy Spirit driven reflection found through prayer can lead one to pause and reflect well on the overwhelming reality of God speaking to man through the currency of ultimate sacrifice of His Son. He gave His Son! Wonder beyond wonders! Create space for this reflection. A great way to reflect well is to recount to someone else this great message.

**Repentance through Jesus - God's people did not listen to God's voice.** God used Micah to reveal to the people of Judah that only a humble heart given to love what God loves (which is Jesus, who loves justice and kindness) will find favor with Him. Let us repent today of lethargic and callous hearts which have grown cold and indifferent to the love of our Father. **Reflect** on the role of the Sunday sermon in my life. To what extent do I recognize that this is the means of God speaking to me and to His people today? Also, reflect on the possibility that we have let the presence of much injustice and unkindness in society cause us to either compare ourselves to the world and by that standard feel prideful or give up on seeking justice or offering kindness thinking that our efforts are futile.

**Pray:** All kindness great and small, all aspects of justice done out love for God matter to God. Offers prayers of repentance and trust once again in the mighty work of Jesus. Trust in Jesus' work on our behalf to lead us to repentance and faith. Read 1 John 1:9

**Consecration for Jesus** - Through Christ's humility before God, through His kindness to us, we find once again that we too can trust in His blood-bought righteousness. Consider our many treasures as worthless in comparison to the grace of God. There might have been a time when we used these worldly treasures to affirm our own righteousness. In Christ, we can instead be a means of justice and kindness as the Lord leads and directs us to invest our treasures for the sake of the Kingdom of God. Let us consecrate ourselves to attend to what is most precious to God's heart...humility, justice and kindness.

Additional verses: Acts 2:37, 2 Timothy 2:2, 2 Timothy 2:14, Romans 7:12, John 14:23, Romans 12:1, Philemon 11

# 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. In Micah 6:1-5, God is calling the people of Judah to consider their lives before Him and calls them to remember what He has done for them.

- a. Talk to your children about favorite family memories. Ask them about their favorite vacation or favorite birthday party. Ask them why it is their favorite.
- b. Micah 6:4 is a reminder to God's people of His miraculous salvation of them from slavery in Egypt. God is trying to remind them of His covenant love for them so that they will repent of their sins and turn back to Him. As Christians we have the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus to look back on in order to remember our salvation.
- c. Tell your children about your experience with the amazing grace of Christ and remind them about the victory we have in Christ.

2. In Micah 6:6-7, we read of God's people asking how they should respond to God. They go through a list of sacrifices to bring.

- a. This is a very human response. I think we all realize that we are sinners and need to do something to present ourselves before God. Talk with your children about how when we have done something wrong that we often want to do something to make up for it.
- b. In some ways, verses 6-8 give a summary of God's Law and one of the purposes of the Law is to expose our need for forgiveness. Talk with your children about the importance of knowing our need for forgiveness and the importance of trusting in God's forgiveness for us in Christ.
- c. Talk with your children about how the sacrifices mentioned in verses 6-7 would not ultimately provide for forgiveness. All the Old Testament sacrifices pointed to the ultimate sacrifice of Jesus giving His life for sinners like us.



3. Micah 6:8 is the most well-known verse in the book of Micah. This is a good summary of God's moral Law.

- a. Make sure to talk with your children about how it is impossible for us to follow this teaching on our own strength. We need God the Holy Spirit's power. Talk about the role of repentance and how we must confess our need of God and our dependence on Him.
- b. Talk through each phrase ("to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God") to see how much your children understands each and then ask how we can live this way for this week with God's help.

Scriptures for further study: 1 Corinthians 15: 3-4, Romans 12:1-2,  
Matthew 22:34-40

# DISCIPLESHIP THROUGH DISCUSSION

## For Students

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

1. How would you describe justice?
2. How has your view of justice changed as a result of reading this section?
3. What two phrases in verse 8 reveal the true nature of justice?
4. How do we know God cares about justice?
5. In ancient Jewish culture, the word Micah uses for “kindness” (hesed) could also be translated as unqualified love; limitless love; stubborn, unceasing. Why does God insist that his people show loving kindness?
6. How does God’s loving kindness towards us in the person and work of Jesus empower us? How does remembering who God is reshape who we are?
7. How can you reflect on the loving kindness shown to you at the cross in such a way that it will move you to do justice and love kindness?

\*Some 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 Micah 6:1-2, God uses courtroom language to describe Himself as Judge, calling us, as sinners, to take the stand. In Micah 6:3, God uses language that is passionate and personal, coming from a heart of love for His people. These two thoughts help us get a picture of the gospel. Because God is a just Judge, He insists that our sins be punished. That is justice. But because God loves us, He sends his Son Jesus Christ to pay the penalty for us on the cross. That is love.

When we believe in Christ, we become “justified” (Romans 5:1), which is a legal term meaning we have been legally acquitted. But not only does He declare us to be innocent, He restores us to a relationship in which we come to know and love him as our Father.

2. In Micah 6:4-5, God recounts several examples of His faithfulness to His people throughout the history of their covenant relationship. Spend some time reflecting on the many ways God has been faithful to you throughout your life. Let this reflection time fill your heart with gratitude. It may also help for you to remember a time when your relationship with God seemed closer, and create a longing in you to move back towards the Lord.

3. In Micah 6:6-8, the speaker contemplates what the proper response should be to our recognition of sin and transgression. It is not more sacrifices, more offerings, or any other attempt to buy God off (verses 6-7). Instead, God wants us, our very selves, our lives, and our love (verse 8). (Or, as Paul writes in Romans 12:1, God wants us to be “living sacrifices.”) What does Micah 6:8, the most well-known verse in the whole book, mean? First, it means we walk humbly with God, we fear Him, and we love Him with all of our heart. Second, as a result, we will be those who naturally desire to love others by doing justice and loving kindness. Do you have this kind of relationship with God? Is your life an overflow of this?



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>