

# 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 21, 2021

# "THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO MICAH"

## Micah 7:8-20 ESV

8 Rejoice not over me, O my enemy; when I fall, I shall rise; when I sit in darkness, the Lord will be a light to me. 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. 10 Then my enemy will see, and shame will cover her who said to me, "Where is the Lord your God?" My eyes will look upon her; now she will be trampled down like the mire of the streets. 11 A day for the building of Your walls! In that day the boundary shall be far extended. 12 In that day they will come to You, from Assyria and the cities of Egypt, and from Egypt to the River, from sea to sea and from mountain to mountain. 13 But the earth will be desolate because of its inhabitants, for the fruit of their deeds. 14 Shepherd Your people with Your staff, the flock of Your inheritance, who dwell alone in a forest in the midst of a garden land; let them graze in Bashan and Gilead as in the days of old. 15 As in the days when You came out of the land of Egypt, I will show them marvelous things. 16 The nations shall see and be ashamed of all their might; they shall lay their hands on their mouths; their ears shall be deaf; 17 they shall lick the dust like a serpent, like the crawling things of the earth; they shall come trembling out of their strongholds; they shall turn in dread to the Lord our God, and they shall be in fear of You. 18 Who is a God like You, pardoning iniquity and passing over transgression for the remnant of his inheritance? He does not retain his anger forever, because he delights in steadfast love. 19 He will again have compassion on us; he will tread our iniquities underfoot. You will cast all our sins into the depths of the sea. 20 You will show faithfulness to Jacob and steadfast love to Abraham, as You have sworn to our fathers from the days of old.

**Historical Context** - Though Micah is not specifically called a “prophet” he was a man to whom the Holy Spirit had given a message for the people of Judah. Further, the name “Micah” may be translated as a simple rhetorical question: “Who is like Yahweh?” Micah prophesied during the reigns of the Judean kings Jotham (750–735 B.C.), Ahaz (735–715), and Hezekiah (715–687). Micah writes in order to bring God’s “lawsuit” against his people (3:8). He indicts Samaria and Jerusalem for their sins (1:2–7), with both Assyria (5:5–6) and Babylon (4:10) looming as instruments of the divine sentence. (ESV Study Bible)

Free from Assyrian interference in the first half of the eighth century, the reigns of Jeroboam II of Israel (782–753 B.C.) and the Judean kings Uzziah and Jotham witnessed the emergence of a wealthy upper class. (ESV Study Bible) The wealth of Judah became its curse as the people saw themselves as the source of their prosperity and consequently, they sought to obtain future security through worshipping idols. Over an 18 year period, God will pronounce judgement on his people through Micah. We see the relentless purifying love of God.

**Recap** - We left off on November, 14th, “In a courtroom scene, God judges Israel and Judah for their sin and calls for justice, mercy, and humility.”

Mic. 6:1–7:20 The Lord’s indictment is delivered (6:1–8), and the crisis within the covenantal relationship is described (6:9–7:7). Micah expresses trust that the Lord will bring vindication (7:8–13), and he declares that the Lord will shepherd his flock with compassion (7:14–20). ESV GTSB

# Big Idea

## Responding to the Good News of the Gospel

### Outline

1. Micah and the Unfolding Story of God's Redemption.

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2. God the Hero: Who is a God Like You?

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3. Responding to the Gospel

a. Saved from the Power of Sin

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b. Saved from the Penalty of Sin

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4. Responding to the Gospel as a Believer

a. Saved from the Practice of Sin

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b. Saved from the Presence of Sin

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## **Gospel Applications:**

**Repentance through Jesus** - Let us repent through Jesus for the times that we have not trusted God for provision in our lives. Repent for the times we thought our prayers were not being heard. We can repent through Jesus for the times we let the obstacles in our lives cause us to panic and to lose faith forgetting that we have hope that the Lord has great purpose in all aspects of our lives.

**Praise to Jesus** - We have such cause to praise Jesus! Based upon Micah 7:18–19, Lord who is a like You? You are worthy of praise for You pardon our iniquity You pass over the transgressions of the remnant of Your inheritance! Praise is due to You, for You do not retain Your anger forever, because You delight in steadfast love. You have again had compassion on us; indeed Lord, You have tread our iniquities underfoot. You have cast all our sins into the depths of the sea. (ESV)

**Consecration for Jesus** - Let us go to Jesus. The power of a greater affection is the solution to the problem of the strong attractions to the world. We consecrate ourselves to embrace the hope that is ours in Christ, commit again to Him in both the majors and minors, with loving courage let us share our hope with the folks whom the Lord places in our paths. Micah 7:7; But as for me, I will look to the LORD; I will wait for the God of my salvation; my God will hear me. (ESV)

**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. Micah wrote to the people of Judah today, and His writings are included in the Bible because we find that God’s people still struggle in the ways that the people of Judah did. Reflecting on the whole book of Micah and the message of Micah 7:8-20, how has my view of God expanded or changed ?

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2. There are reasons super-hero movies are more popular than ever. Who is your favorite super-hero? What is it about that character that makes him or her your favorite? How is Jesus described in the bible? (see Isaiah 53:2-7)

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3. Micah says, “Who is a God like you, pardoning iniquity and passing over transgression for the remnant of His inheritance? He does not retain His anger forever, because He delights in steadfast love. 19 He will again have compassion on us; He will tread our iniquities underfoot. You will cast all our sins into the depths of the sea. 20 You will show faithfulness to Jacob and steadfast love to Abraham, as You have sworn to our fathers from the days of old.” From this passage identify and discuss God’s “powers”. A super-hero saves a city or the planet for a moment. That’s great, but God’s picture of just how we need to be saved and the plight of the world are vastly different. Discuss the world which God has in store for believers in Christ. Read Isaiah 25:7-9 and Isaiah 55:1-13

# DISCIPLESHIP DURING THE WEEK

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4. Micah wrote a book of hope in times of great spiritual despair. How do God's promises provide us with strength to remain faithful in our own lives?

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**Reflect:** Revelation 19-22, Micah 7:18-19

**Praise to Jesus** Why not pause for a moment during the week to praise the Lord for His presence, purpose, and purifying work in your life?

**Reflect:** Read Micah 7:18-19; Ephesians 1:7-10; Colossians 2:13-15; 1 John 1:9.

**Repentance through Jesus-** From the New Testament we learn that confession is essential both for salvation and for daily cleansing. What do we learn from these texts about the scope and purpose of God's forgiveness in our lives? Why not reach out to a close friend to share aspects of your personal path of repentance and how the Lord is sanctifying you?

**Consecration for Jesus-** We have been redeemed to enjoy kinship with God and out of the fullness of that relationship we can make a difference in our homes, in our neighborhoods, our communities, state, country even the world.

**Reflect:** Micah wrote a book of great spiritual hope in the midst of great spiritual despair. Consider Christ, and be consecrated to preaching the hope of Christ to your heart and to those around us who might be suffering with spiritual despair.

Additional verses: Revelation 22:20, Romans 7:7-28, Psalm 2, 1 Kings 19:10-18, John 15, Ephesians 1:7-10; Colossians 2:13-15; 1 John 1:9, 2 Timothy 3:12-17; Hebrews 3:13-19; Acts 20:28-31; Hebrews 10:23-25; Ephesians 6:10-18.

\*Christ-Centered Exposition: Exalting in Jesus in Micah

# 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. Ask your children to tell you something in which they really like or delight. Then ask them what they think God delights in.
  - a. Read Micah 7:18. This verse is a wonderful picture of God's character as being One who forgives our sins and "delights in steadfast love".
  - b. Remind your children about the context for this passage and the book of Micah. The people of God deserved God's judgment because they had broken God's Law in many, many ways. But this passage states God "does not retain his anger forever". Instead, He delights to show mercy based on His covenant promises.
  - c. This passage finds its ultimate fulfillment in Jesus Christ as He lived a perfect life yet took our judgment and punishment from God on the cross. This should humble us and cause us to praise God, which is why Micah wrote, "Who is a God like You".
  
2. Micah 7:19 goes further to say that God "will cast our sins into the depths of the sea". This is an amazing reminder of our assurance of forgiveness in Christ.
  - a. Ask your children what they think it means that our sins are cast into the depths of the sea.
  - b. Talk with them about how God is promising to forgive us and not bring our sins back up to us again.
  - c. Ask your children if someone has reminded them of something they did wrong in the past. How did they feel?
  - d. Ask them how they feel that when they ask God for forgiveness through Jesus that God will never bring up the guilt of our sins again.
  
3. Read Micah 7:20 and ask your children who Jacob and Abraham are. Ask them why Micah would bring up their names.
  - a. Talk with your children about the meaning of the word "faithfulness" and how God is faithful. We can trust His promises.
  - b. Read the promises in Matthew 28:20 and 1 John 1:9. Ask your children what it means to trust these promises of God. Talk with them about the difference it makes in your life.

Scriptures for further study: Romans 3:24-26, Galatians 3:13, and 1 Peter 2:9-11.

# DISCIPLESHIP THROUGH DISCUSSION

## For Students

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

1. Verses 11-13 paint a picture of restoration beyond judgment. Why does it matter that our conception of God is not simply that he's a God of love but one of love and justice?

2. Verse 18 says "Who is a God like you, pardoning iniquity (sins)...? How can the God of judgment upon sins also be the God who pardons sin?"

3. Read Exodus 34:6-7. How can God both deal with sin and embrace the sinner?

4. What do you make of the idea that judgement is compassionate?

5. "The promise to Abram in Genesis 12: 3 relies on God's grace, not on humanity's merit." Why is this good news for each of us personally? What causes you to forget it?

6. Re-read the line above these questions for reflection. Does this truth surprise you? Should it? Why/why not, do you think?

\*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. Author A. W. Tozer once wrote that “What comes into our minds when we think about God is the most important thing about us.” So what comes into your mind? Is it true and biblically accurate? And do you think of God primarily in the way Micah describes him here (7:18-20)?
2. God not only pardons our sins, he utterly defeats and destroys our sins, removing them forever, and remembering them no more. Would you like to be forever free of your sin and to receive God’s mercy instead? He “delights” to give you this gift!
3. In Romans 1:15, even though the Apostle Paul is here addressing believers, he writes, “I am so eager to preach to you the gospel.” Why is it just as important for believers to continue to preach to ourselves the good news of the gospel? How does it impact us when we don’t?
4. Even as a believer, why is it still sometimes hard to believe that our sins are buried? Would you now finally let go, and take Christ at his word when he declared, “It is finished.”
5. You have been saved from the penalty of sin (justification), you are being saved from the practice of sin (sanctification), and you will one day be delivered from all presence of sin (glorification). How might it help you and encourage you to think about our salvation in terms of these various stages?

## **ADDITIONAL NOTES**



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>