

Group Questions- *Micah*: Week 2

11/19/23 – Pastor Kirby

Getting to Know Me Questions:

- What is a food opinion/take that you have which would be considered “unpopular”?
- What is/has been your greatest “splurge”?

Into the Bible Questions:

- What’s something that you learned, stood out, was interesting from this week’s teaching?
- **READ:** Micah 3:1-4
- Justice is “truth in action” – how would you describe this idea?
- God would not answer the rich rulers when they cried out to God. Why not? How does that make you feel/What are your thoughts on that?
- **READ:** Micah 3:5-7
- Put verse 5 in your own words/thoughts/
- Verse 6 “Therefore” (what’s it there for?). Micah says there is a consequence in line with verse 5. What were the consequences?
- In recent years more and more public leaders (politicians, religious leaders, educators etc) have had the evil things they’ve done in private exposed for all to see. We have ignored some, allowed some and rejected others. Do you have a “line in the sand” that a person in power cannot cross for you to distrust them?
- Why are we ok with and allow, leaders that we like, to get away with the way in which they treat others or act?
- Are there sins that are too big to forgive? Too big for God? Too big for you? Rapist? Serial Killer? Robbery? Assault? Lying? Cheating? ????
- **READ** Micah 3:8-11
- In what ways have we (Americans) lived like the Israelites did and responded like they did at the end of verse 11?
- Do you think God has shown “favor” on the United States? Why? How?
- If yes/or no, what does that mean for us in the way in which we are to treat the people who live here, or even how we interact with other nations? According Micah, not your own opinion.
- **READ:** Jeremiah 26:17-19
- How does this affect our reading of Micah?
- Does God’s forgiveness have limits for you? For others?

Application Questions:

- Continue to read the book of Micah
- If we lived in the days of Micah, would God judge our community? Would you be judged along the leaders and prophets he was talking to? Why or Why not?

Micah: Week 2

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Micah 3-5: Message to the rulers/leaders/wealthy

Micah's three themes; judgment, restoration and justice

Micah 3

¹ Then I said,

“Listen, you leaders of Jacob,
you rulers of Israel.

Should you not embrace justice,

Should you not embrace justice,

² you who hate good and love evil;

who tear the skin from my people
and the flesh from their bones;

³ who eat my people's flesh,

strip off their skin

and break their bones in pieces;

who chop them up like meat for the pan,

like flesh for the pot?

⁴ Then they will cry out to the Lord,

but he will not answer them.

At that time he will hide his face from them

because of the evil they have done.

“...because of the evil they have done.”

⁵ This is what the Lord says:

“As for the prophets

who lead my people astray,

they proclaim ‘peace’

if they have something to eat,

but prepare to wage war against anyone

who refuses to feed them.

⁶ Therefore night will come over you, without visions,

and darkness, without divination.

The sun will set for the prophets,

and the day will go dark for them.

⁷ The seers will be ashamed
and the diviners disgraced.
They will all cover their faces
because there is no answer from God.”

⁸ But as for me, I am filled with power,
with the Spirit of the Lord,
and with justice and might,
to declare to Jacob his transgression,
to Israel his sin.

⁹ Hear this, you leaders of Jacob,
you rulers of Israel,
who despise justice
and distort all that is right;

¹⁰ who build Zion with bloodshed,
and Jerusalem with wickedness.

¹¹ Her leaders judge for a bribe,
her priests teach for a price,
and her prophets tell fortunes for money.
Yet they look for the Lord’s support and say,
“Is not the Lord among us?
No disaster will come upon us.”

¹² Therefore because of you,
Zion will be plowed like a field,
Jerusalem will become a heap of rubble,
the temple hill a mound overgrown with thickets.

Micah 5

² “But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah,
though you are small among the clans^[b] of Judah,
out of you will come for me
one who will be ruler over Israel,
whose origins are from of old,
from ancient times.”

³ Therefore Israel will be abandoned
until the time when she who is in labor bears a son,
and the rest of his brothers return
to join the Israelites.

⁴ He will stand and shepherd his flock
in the strength of the Lord,

in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God.
And they will live securely, for then his greatness
will reach to the ends of the earth.

⁵ And he will be our peace
when the Assyrians invade our land
and march through our fortresses.

We will raise against them seven shepherds,
even eight commanders,

⁶ who will rule the land of Assyria with the sword,
the land of Nimrod with drawn sword.

He will deliver us from the Assyrians
when they invade our land
and march across our borders.

Jeremiah 26:17-19

¹⁷ Some of the elders of the land stepped forward and said to the entire assembly of people, ¹⁸ "Micah of Moresheth prophesied in the days of Hezekiah king of Judah. He told all the people of Judah, 'This is what the Lord Almighty says:

"Zion will be plowed like a field,
Jerusalem will become a heap of rubble,
the temple hill a mound overgrown with thickets.'

¹⁹ "Did Hezekiah king of Judah or anyone else in Judah put him to death? Did not Hezekiah fear the Lord and seek his favor? And did not the Lord relent, so that he did not bring the disaster he pronounced against them? We are about to bring a terrible disaster on ourselves!"

Romans 6:1-4

What shall we say, then? Shall we go on sinning so that grace may increase? ² By no means! We are those who have died to sin; how can we live in it any longer? ³ Or don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? ⁴ We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.