



Biblical Literacy

Scripture • Substance • Spiritual Passion

Lesson 49.1

Old Testament Survey: Micah

Outline for Class

- Welcome
- Theme Today
Micah may be my favorite Old Testament book I have translated. The Hebrew is fun; it is loaded with word play, artistically assembled into a powerful punch. The prophet Micah takes full advantage of his name as he proclaims the word of the LORD to the nations, especially Judah. In Hebrew, "Micah" is a sentence name. It combines three different Hebrew words.
- Prayer of Thanks for God's Character
- Video (38 minutes)
- Discussion & Points for Home

Points for Home

- ❖ "They oppress a man and his house... Therefore thus says the LORD: behold, against this family I am devising disaster." (Mic. 2:2-3). God is the God of the unexpected! As we read in Micah's contemporary prophet Isaiah, "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the LORD (Is. 55:8)." This cuts both ways! In one sense, it leaves a warning. We should never think that God has his eye turned from what we are doing and thinking. He cares for us enough to send his Son in sacrifice; he will never ignore us! But this warning is really a blessing, for we need a God of the unexpected. We need a God who, in the words of Paul, ... is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us (Eph. 3:20).
- ❖ "He shall judge between many peoples" (Mic. 4:3).
God as judge should motivate us in a number of ways. Of course, we should live carefully before him, but this idea should be much greater. When we see injustice in the world, that image of God within us should get indignant. It is not right! The poor, the defenseless, the widows, the orphans, the small, and the weak should benefit from our understanding that God is a righteous judge! He calls us to such as we live in a world beset with climbing ladders off the backs of others. In this world, where lying for money, and where "sometimes you're the windshield [and] sometimes you're the bug,"¹³ we need a reality check. This is a season of giving, but justice should never be simply a gift. It is core to God and his creation. Let us seek to treat people fairly, standing up against abuse wherever we see it!
- ❖ "Who is a God like you pardoning iniquity and passing over transgression?" (Mic. 7:18).
Here, we have an interesting point. In Micah's day, the people were not living justly nor treating others justly. They were abusing others for self-enrichment. The only time we see God acting in a way that is anything other than apparent justice is not when he acts unfairly to his advantage. It is when he acts unfairly to his detriment! God has every just reason to eliminate this world and all its inhabitants. It is his love for his creation (read that "you" and "me") that causes him to provide mercy. Yet the lesson of Calvary is that as a just and unchanging God, even his mercy must go hand in hand with his justice. Hence out of Bethlehem, came the promised Shepherd of which Micah spoke. This Shepherd would bring redemption and mercy to the people, but do so while satisfying the justice required by a just God. The penalty for sin was paid. A pure sacrifice was offered for the sins of those impure. This is the game changer. This is the mercy that those who have received are called to dispense to others. This is the life Paul has called us to, one of service in humility! Let us seek to serve those who need mercy, doing so in the name of our just and merciful God!

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