

April 27, 2014 Sermon Application handout

“What a Shame”

Micah 1

I. Introduction

1. Before you begin, go to the Lord in prayer and ask Him to search your heart in an effort to identify any sin. Then spend time confessing that sin, asking the Lord for forgiveness, and for Him to renew a right spirit within you. Thank Him for His abundant mercy and steadfast love toward you, a sinner. Thank Him for His truth, His grace, and His salvation.
2. Read Micah 1 and make some general observations. Where is the prophet Micah from? Who were the kings in his day? Who is the original audience that he is addressing? What is the tone of the first chapter?

II. Micah of M _____ (Micah 1:1)

3. Micah’s name is short for *Micaiah* which in Hebrew means “Who is like Yahweh?” Begin by listing out other attributes of God that speak to His greatness. For example, God is sovereign and all-powerful! Now look over your list for a moment and then pray and remember to thank God for who He is, as there is no one like our God!
 - God is
 - God is
 - God is
4. If you have a map of Bible lands, locate the city where Micah is from. You should be able to locate it 20 miles or so SW of Jerusalem. This is a rural town and Micah was most likely a farm boy. Can you recall from your other minor prophet studies what other prophet had a similar background?
5. Re-read verses 8-9. In light of Micah’s message in the beginning of the chapter, how does he feel in the midst of his declaration to the people? Is Micah the kind of preacher who just yells at people, or does it appear he has a great concern for them? What are some key words that help you discern your answer?

6. When you call another person to repentance, whether it be unto salvation or another Christian to turn from their sin, how is your tone and attitude? Even though the message that needs to be brought can be a hard one, in what ways can you express it as a sinner who has been saved by grace? Look at the following verses and list out the heart attitude that should encompass the message given.
- 2 Timothy 2:24-26
 - 1 Peter 3:15-16
 - Galatians 6:1-2
 - Ephesians 4:1-3
 - Colossians 3:12

III. Micah's M_____ (Micah 2-16)

7. How does Micah begin his message to both Israel and Judah according to verse 2? What is he calling these nations to do?
8. Why would it be wise for these nations to heed Micah's call of repentance? Look at the word pictures in verses 3-4, 6-7; is God pleased or displeased with these nations? What is the message Micah is trying to display?
9. In verse 5 and 7, what actions are being attributed to Judah and Israel? Do some cross-referencing below; what do you learn about the "high places?"
- Deuteronomy 12:2
 - 1 Kings 12:25-33
 - 1 Kings 14:22-24

10. According to verse 8, what is Micah’s message interrupted by (cf. Is. 22:4)? Does it appear that Micah truly cares for his people? Read Luke 13:34-35. Who does Micah remind you of? Who is it that has care and concern for those who were facing destruction?

11. Read 2 Kings 18. What event is Micah prophesying about in verse 9 and 12? What enemy would make its way to the very gates of Jerusalem itself? What would happen to Israel and then Judah in the year 701 BC?

12. Each town that Micah mentions in verses 10-15 has significance in their meaning. Micah plays off the meaning of their name in declaring their destruction. See the chart below. What is the play on words in each statement that Micah makes about these towns in light of their meaning and their eventual destruction?

Town Name	Town Name Meaning	Micah’s Play on Words
Gath (v. 10)	Tell Town	Tell it not to Tell Town.
Bethleaphrah (v. 10)	House of Dust	House of Dust roll yourselves in the dust.
Shaphir (v.11)	Beautiful/Pleasant	
Zaanan (v.11)	Go Forth Town	
Bethezel (v. 11)	House Beside	
Maroth (v. 12)	Bitter	
Lacish (13)	A Team of Horses	
Moresbeth (v.14)	Betrothed	
Achzib (v. 14)	Lie/Deception	
Mareshah (v.15)	One who takes possession	

13. Read verses 10-15 once more and look over the chart. Try to identify Micah's tone. Is it cheery? Is it sad? Is it angry? What is Micah trying to focus on? How does he skillfully try to shake Judah and Israel from their apathy as they continued to bask in their prosperity?

14. What does Micah call the people to do in verse 16? Who would be taken away because of what these nations had done? What would be lost and destroyed because of the evils they had committed?

15. These consequences were given to these nations so that they would recognize the disgrace of their sin, the terrible outcome of their sin, and the shame of what they had done. As you think about your own sin, do you grieve over it and see it as a big deal like Micah portrays or have your senses been dulled to the point of saying, "God will forgive me anyway?" If the latter is true, what might be driving your indifference? See the verses below and list out what you may have forgotten?
 - Matthew 27:49-50
 - Philippians 2:5-8
 - Hebrews 12:2

16. Read Luke 7:36-49. List out ways in which this woman in the narrative portrays the proper attitude and actions when it comes to her own sin. How does this sinner's story motivate you to act when it comes to your own sin? What did Jesus tell this woman at the end that gives any sinner hope?

Any concept of grace that makes us feel more comfortable sinning is not biblical grace. God's grace never encourages us to live in sin, on the contrary, it empowers us to say no to sin and yes to truth.--Randy Alcorn

RESOURCES

Specific Resources for Micah

Mastering the Old Testament vol 21 by Walt Kaiser

A Commentary on Micah by Bruce Waltke (Technical)

Tyndale Old Testament Commentary vol 23a by Bruce Waltke (less technical)

Micah by Jack Riggs

General Resources for the Minor Prophets

The Minor Prophets by James Montgomery Boice

The Minor Prophets by Charles Feinberg

The Prophets of Israel by Leon Wood

Major Points from the Minor Prophets by John Blanchard

A Survey of Old Testament Introduction by Gleason Archer

Interpreting the Minor Prophets by Robert Chisholm Jr

The Ultimate Priority on Worship by John MacArthur

Knowing God by J.I. Packer