

May 11, 2014 Sermon Application handout

“Give Us More Windbags”

Micah 2

I. Introduction

1. Before you begin, go to the Lord in prayer. Pray that God would be your Ultimate Treasure, and the Strength of your heart. Thank God that He is continually with you, guiding you with His counsel from His Word. Praise God that He is near to you and is your Refuge. Pray for those who are perishing and are far from God.
2. Read Micah 2 and make some general observations. What are some of the sins that are listed against others? Who is mentioned in this section? How does the Lord respond to their actions?

II. The Cruelty of C_____ (Micah 2:1-5)

3. How does Micah begin this part of his message in verse 1? What is his tone? (See Matthew 11:20-24 for a similar idea).
4. Who are those that Micah is pronouncing woe upon in verses 1-2? Instead of counting sheep as they lay on their bed so to speak, what are they doing?
5. List out the specific sins of the people that Micah pronounced woe upon:
 - They c_____ their fields.
 - They s_____ other’s fields
 - They t_____ other’s houses
 - They r_____ a man of his home and his inheritance
6. Read 1 Kings 21:1-16. Taking this story into consideration, in essence, what are these schemers in Micah doing? How are they treating the poor or the weak (cf. Amos 5:11; Isaiah 5:8)?

7. Reread Micah 2:2. Not only were the schemers “robbing” others of their land but of something else; what was it and what makes this so wicked? Who had ultimately given this land to the people of Israel (See Lev. 25:23; Num 36:9; 1 Kings 21:3)?

8. According to the beginning of verse 2, what was at the heart of those who were robbing others of their land? Look up the definition for this sinful heart attitude; what did you learn?

9. Besides stealing land and possessions of others, what are some other actions associated with this sinful behavior? Look up Numbers 20:17, what else is listed? List out any actions that are similar to your own struggles.

10. Read Psalm 73 carefully and contemplatively. When a believer comes close to stumbling in the area of coveting, what are they ultimately tempted to forget? What do they need to remember is the ultimate good for the believer?

11. Covetousness is menacing and destructive. If left unchecked, it has the power to destroy work relationships, close friendships, churches, and even families. So be on guard and think through your week—was there something you wanted so badly that you were willing to sin to get it? What was it that you complained about not having—a more comfortable life? Better health? More money? How did you respond when you didn't get what you thought you deserved? Spend some time in prayer right now and ask God to show you any areas of discontent in your life. Ask him to reveal to you what it is that you are coveting which is the driving force behind a discontented heart.

III. The Rejection of R_____ (Micah 2:6-11)

12. According to verse 6, how did the people Micah was addressing respond to his message? Did they appreciate the fact that he was calling them out on their sin of covetousness (See also Isaiah 30:10)?

13. What excuse do the people of Israel use in verse 7 that points to the fact that they are having a hard time believing God will judge them for their wicked acts? Cross reference this with Exodus 34:6; what part of this truth are they forgetting? How is what they were saying a misrepresentation of God's character?

14. Did these people repent and begin to walk uprightly? What do verses 8-9 indicate? How were they continuing to treat the people? What does Micah say God will do in light of this (v. 10)?

15. Did the people want to hear the truth at this point? What does verse 11 reveal?

16. Would you say this truth is just as relevant in our time today? What do the people want to hear in the United States of America today? Do they want to hear the truth about sin and judgment or just live by the mantra, "your best life now?" Using 2 Timothy 4:1-3 to help guide your thinking, what was Paul's view on this, which is just as applicable today?

17. How about you? When you come to church on Sunday, does it bother you when the preacher teaches what accords with sound doctrine or do you yawn and complain about what is being presented because the message wasn't entertaining enough or lacked humorous stories? How does Jesus address this issue in Matthew 7:24-29?

18. Do you have ears to hear? Honestly evaluate your heart as you read the questions below. Then note some steps that you can take to increase your biblical focus?

- How attentive are you to those who preach or write about His word?
- How much do you desire to be instructed from the word?
- What kind of instruction do you desire?
- Is the Bible boring or less relevant or less important to you?
- How much do you desire to know the truth?
- How many sermons do you listen to each month? Just the four you get here?
- How much Bible reading do you take in on a daily basis?
- How much do you meditate on the word during the day?

“We must allow the Word of God to confront us, to disturb our security, to undermine our complacency and to overthrow our patterns of thought and behavior.”

— John R.W. Stott

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

Resources on Contentment

The Rare Jewel of Contentment by Jeremiah Burroughs

Battling Discontent with God by Shelbi Cullen

Life Isn't Fair by Tim Carns (Sermon: October 23, 2011)

http://www.calvarybiblechurch.org/site/cpage.asp?sec_id=180007650&cpage_id=180020121&index=240