

May 18, 2014 Sermon Application Handout

“And Justice For All”

Micah 3

I. Introduction

1. Before you begin, go to the Lord in prayer. Pray for your country, the leaders of your country, and the leaders in your church. Pray that they would lead with integrity, encourage good, and deplore evil.
2. Read Micah 3 and make some general observations. Who is mentioned in this section? What is God’s greatest concern for them? How does God respond to their neglect of that very thing?

II. Judges Judging U_____ (Micah 3:1-4)

3. How does Micah begin this part of his message in verse 1? Who is the first group that he calls to respond (cf. 3:10-12; Ex. 18:25)?
4. Read Exodus 18. What were the appointed leaders of Israel called to do? What was their character to be like? Explain why this would be such an important aspect of being a leader to the people (cf. Micah 3:1).
5. Look up the word “justice.” What do you learn? What kind of justice did God expect from his leaders? What were the leaders to use as their standard in order to judge the people?

6. Read 1 Kings 3:16-28. On this particular occasion, how is King Solomon an illustration of justice rendered? What were some of his characteristics? When Israel heard of this situation, how did they respond? What are some principles you can glean from this passage that can help you grow in integrity?

7. Did the judges and leaders in Micah's day live up to what God intended according to Micah 3:2-3? What were some of their characteristics? How did they treat the people? How would the people in Israel thought of them? How does God view their actions?

8. According to verse 4, when the "judges" cried out to the "Chief Justice," what judgment was set forth? Was He just (cf. Isa 30:18)? Why or why not?

9. Does it surprise you that God is so fiercely concerned with justice? Do you believe that the Lord expects this from our own political and judicial leaders today? What do you think He sees when he looks at the United States of America? Can you list out some injustices that take place today that have been sanctioned by our leaders?

10. Now take a moment to pause and pray. Pray for our leaders and the coming elections. Pray that they will be leaders of integrity that uphold justice in the land and who deplore evil. Pray that they will protect the unborn and endorse marriage according to God's Word and design.

III. Prophets Prophecyng for P _____ (Micah 1:5-8)

11. Read Micah 3:5-8. What is the next group of leaders that Micah is specifically addressing? What was their role with the people of God? Who did they speak on behalf of? How were they going about their responsibility; was it with integrity and justice? Why or why not? (See also Micah 2:11)

12. Does this hit close to home for you? Can you think of other religious leaders who claim to be God's mouthpiece and yet they take advantage of people on multiple levels? Take time to list out some examples. Then read 2 Corinthians 2:17 and Titus 1:10-11, 16. Who are these individuals essentially and what do they inevitably cause in the body of Christ? What motivates and drives them at a heart level? What would be some ways you can guard yourself against people like this and/or grow in your own godly leadership skills? (See Titus 2:1-8 to help develop your answer).

13. According to Micah 3:6-7, what did God declare about these prophets? When they too cried out for help, how did God answer? Was He just?

14. But what about Micah? He was a prophet. What does he declare about himself in verse 8? What was different about him versus the prophets just spoken about? What can you apply in your own life from his example? See also Galatians 5:16-25.

15. The last part of verse 8 says, "to make known to Jacob his rebellious acts, even to Israel his sin." Is exposing sin something that the Lord would expect of leaders in the church today? (See Matthew 18:15-17; Gal.6:1-2). Is this expectation just limited to the leaders? What are some consequences that ensue in churches and in relationships when sin is ignored and not confronted?

16. Read Ephesians 6:19-20. In the context of the Gospel, why do you think Paul asked the people to pray for boldness on his behalf? How does the Gospel address sin? Do you need boldness in this area? Are you the only "prophet" your unbelieving family and friends hear? Do you ask for prayer for boldness as Paul does? Write down 2 to 3 people who you need to continue to share the Gospel boldly with, then stop and pray for boldness and for their salvation.

IV. Leaders leading for I_____ (Micah 1:9-12)

17. Micah addressed civic leaders in verses 1-4 and prophets in verses 5-8. Who else does he address in verses 9-12? What does Micah say they need to do and why?

18. What are some examples that Micah uses to illustrate these leaders' view on justice in verses 10-11? When they used people for their service projects, according to this, did they do it with integrity? At the end of the day what motivated them to treat people in this way? What was in it for them?

19. Read Deuteronomy 16:18-20. Were judges allowed to take bribes? Were the Levitical priests to instruct the law only if they were paid? Why or why not? How is this antithetical to God's demands of a leader?

20. Read through the following verses, list out what God intends in a leader and then write out areas in which you need to grow specifically as a Christian, a leader, or a future leader in your church, home, and community.
 - John 13:1-17

 - Philippians 2:1-5

 - 1 Thessalonians 2:1-12

 - 1 Timothy 3:1-13

21. According to Micah 3:12, what was God’s response to all of the injustice, oppression, exploitation, and abuse of authority? In light of their view of God from verse 11, do you think they were just a little taken aback? In what way?
22. Like in Micah’s day, when we too are surrounded by so much injustice in our world today, we might be tempted to feel hopeless. But there is always hope. Finish your lesson by reading Jeremiah 26.
- When Jeremiah, a prophet, was threatened with death for speaking the truth, what did the people say to the priests and other prophets?
 - Who did the elders quote in verse 11?
 - What did Hezekiah, king of Judah, decide to do?
 - How does this increase your faith and instill hope today?
 - In what way does this encourage you to pray for our leaders?

“Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere.”

— Martin Luther King, Jr.

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