

## **June 15, 2014 Sermon Application Handout**

“Merry Christmas”

Micah 5

### **I. Introduction**

1. Before you begin, go to the Lord in prayer. Thank God for the blessing of your salvation. Thank Him for sending Christ to deliver and rescue you from yourself. Pray for Christ’s quick return.
  
2. Read Micah 5 and make some general observations. Who is mentioned in this section? What will emerge from them? What are some actions that will follow?

### **II. The N\_\_\_\_\_ for a King (Micah 4:1-5:1)**

3. For context, begin your time by reading Micah 4:1-5:1. List out some of the things that Micah prophesied to give those who had suffered hope.
  
4. What three events would the people of Israel face before this time would arrive (4:9-13, 5:1)?
  
5. To better understand what Micah is referring to, read 2 Kings 25. What King led this siege? Who was struck in the face by this Babylonian king?

6. What two reasons might Micah have had for taking the reader from the joyful days of the millennial kingdom in 4:1-8, back to the Babylonian exile in 4:9-10, the Armageddon in 4:11-13, and then to exile in 5:1? To help answer this question, think through God's character which Micah eludes to. What kind of God do we serve in the dark day and the joyful days? How might this give someone hope who is suffering severe trial?
  
7. Now read Micah 5:2. When Judah's last king would be taken away in humiliation and shame; who would ultimately deliver them from their enemy in the future? What ruler or king would rescue them from destruction?
  
8. Is this future king good news just for Israel? How is this good news for us today? What types of things do we need deliverance from? Use the verses below to help guide your answers:
  - Romans 5:12
  
  - James 4:7
  
  - Romans 8:1
  
  - Luke 12:13-21
  
  - Romans 3:10-18

**III. The D\_\_\_\_\_ of the King (Micah 5:2-6)**

9. According to verse 2, where would this King come from? Cross reference with Genesis 35:19, 48:7, and 1 Samuel 17:2, what historical facts do you learn about this place? How does Micah describe it?
  
10. How does Micah describe the type of ruler who would come from this “Little Town?” (v. 2)? Is he to be an ordinary king? Are the activities and actions of this ruler just arriving for the first time or has this ruler been active all through history; how else is he referred to in the Old Testament (cf. Gen 16:7-10; Gen 22:15:18; Num 22:22-27)?
  
11. According to Micah 5:3, what is Israel likened to? What will they experience after the ruler comes from Bethlehem? Has his coming already transpired? Despite the trial spoken of here, what hope is given to them at the end of verse 3?
  
12. Micah 5:2-4 goes from Christ’s first coming to His second. Looking back at Micah 2:12-13; what will happen to Israel when Christ comes back a second time?
  
13. Meditate on the promise in verse 4 for a moment—how does this give you hope in the midst of any trials you might be experiencing right now? What will this ruler be like “to the ends of the earth?” How does that help you to dwell secure despite the chaos you are facing?

14. Thinking through verses 2-4 along with Psalm 2:10-12; how does this strike at the heart of the Gospel? When you get opportunities to speak of Him to others, do you describe Him in the same way as Micah and the Psalmist? What can you glean from this reading to enhance how you share the Gospel? How can you keep what you share Christ-centered versus man-centered? What is the point of the story—that we get saved or seeing the glory of God on display in Christ?
  
15. How is the glory of Christ further seen in Micah 5:5 (cf. Eph. 2:14)? What will He be to the people? What will He bring? In light of this, will any enemy be able to assail God's people (vv. 5-6)?
  
16. What about you? As a Christian, do you see the fruit of unity or discord in your life? In what way are you being a model of peace?

**III. The A\_\_\_\_\_ of the King (Micah 5:7-15)**

17. Read verses 7-9, what actions by the king are focused upon in this section? When the King returns, what will happen to the remnant of Jacob if they are a blessing to God (cf. Rom. 11:25, Rev. 7)?
  
18. Read verses 10-15. What is the second action of the King to the people? What does God remove? List out how it is described from this passage.

19. The tone in verses 10-15 is not really one of judgment but one of spiritual cleansing and renewal. He *will* utterly destroy His enemies because He has always desired a holy people. He *wants* a pure bride and He will do whatever is necessary to you to be useful for Him. End your lesson by carefully considering and responding to the following questions:

- *How are you striving (by God's Grace) to be a holy vessel*
- *How are you trusting Christ (by God's Grace) more than your bank accounts, people, jobs, or abilities?*
- *What are you worshipping—Christ or \_\_\_\_\_?*
- *How are you embracing Christ's purifying work in your life today?*

20. Now read the following quote by John Piper and allow it to lead you into a time of confession and adoration to your King!

“The deepest meaning of the littleness and insignificance of Bethlehem is that God does not bestow the blessings of the Messiah—the blessings of salvation—on the basis of **our** greatness or **our** merit or **our** achievement. He does not elect cities or people because of their prominence or grandeur or distinction. When he chooses he chooses freely, in order to magnify the glory of His **own** mercy, not the glory of our distinctions. So let us say with the angels, "Glory to God in the highest!" Not glory to us. **We** get the joy. He gets the glory.”<sup>1</sup>

## 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

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<sup>1</sup> [www.desiringgod.org](http://www.desiringgod.org), "From Little Bethlehem Will Come a Ruler in Israel (Micah 5.1-6)

**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