

TIMELESS TRUTHS FOR A CRUCIAL TIME

The Messages of Twelve Old Testament Prophets

Discussion Guide
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Sermon Title

The God Who Pardons Sin

by Paul Martin

Micah 1-7

Introduction: Micah brings a powerful message. Though best known for his prophecy about the place of Jesus' birth (Bethlehem), he gives us significant prophecy about the millennial reign of Christ and forcefully attacks the sins and excesses of his day while presenting the character of God as One who yearns to forgive and restore.

Sermon Outline

I. Micah's Times

- A. During the reigns of Jotham, Ahaz, & Hezekiah from about 737-698BC, a contemporary with Isaiah and sharing similar, and in one passage identical, messages.
- B. Micah is short for Micaiah and means, "Who is like Yahweh?"
- C. Was probably greatly influential in the revival that took place in the Southern Kingdom of Judah under the reign of Hezekiah.

II. Key Elements of Micah's Prophecies

- A. God is a God Who sees and knows what is in the hearts of men—He does not miss any act of injustice (1:2-3)
- B. God is especially angry with those who use their political and spiritual positions of influence and power to advance their own personal wealth and plans (2:1-11, 3:1-11)
- C. Judah has a future in a reign of peace with her Great Shepherd (4:1-4, 2:12-13)
- D. The Messiah will come out of Bethlehem (5:2-5)
- E. God is a God Whose anger lasts for a moment but Whose love is everlasting, a God Who pardons sin and delights to show mercy (7:14-20)

III. A Word for Our Times

- A. Key verse: (6:8b) To act justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God.
- B. The legality of doing a thing does not make it a thing to do. In Micah's day people laid awake at night and thought of ways to take advantage of their neighbors and gain wealth by any means possible. God desires true integrity of heart and delights in those who act justly and love mercy from their innermost being.
- C. There is a very stern judgment for judges, politicians, and those in authority who use their office to advance their own goals or to cater to the privileged and powerful.
- D. There is a very stern judgment for priests and prophets who practice for financial gain and tell the people only what they want to hear rather than the truth from God.

Conclusion: There is nothing new under the sun...the heart of man is the same in all times and generations. God still looks for the person who will cultivate a personal relationship with Him (walk humbly with their God) and who will practice true piety from the heart walking with grace, mercy, and true righteousness.

And it will come about in the last days That the mountain of the LORD Will be established as the chief of the mountains. It will be raised above the hills, And the peoples will stream to it. ² Many nations will come and say, "Come and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD And to the house of the God of Jacob, That He may teach us about His ways And that we may walk in His paths." For from Zion will go forth the law, Even the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. ³ And He will judge between many peoples And render decisions for mighty, distant nations. Then they will hammer their swords into plowshares And their spears into pruning hooks; Nation will not lift up sword against nation, And never again will they train for war. ⁴ Each of them will sit under his vine And under his fig tree, With no one to make them afraid, For the mouth of the LORD of hosts has spoken. ⁵ Though all the peoples walk Each in the name of his god, As for us, we will walk In the name of the LORD our God forever and ever.

(Cont'd on Page 2)

Discussion Questions

- 1.) Aside from the obvious need to depend upon the power of the Holy Spirit, how complicated are God's expectations of us really? (Micah 6:8)
- 2.) Describe in your own words and share with your group what people were dreaming up as they lay in their beds at night. (2:1-2)
- 3.) From Micah 5:2-5 name at least five characteristics of the promised Messiah Who will come out of Bethlehem.
- 4.) In Micah 7:18-20 describe the character and attributes of God that you find there.
- 5.) From Micah 4:11-12 what insights do you gain about how God works in and through the motives of evil men and nations? How do they play into His sovereign purpose?

(Cont'd from Page 1)

⁶ *"In that day," declares the LORD,*

*"I will assemble the lame
And gather the outcasts,
Even those whom I have
afflicted.*

⁷ *"I will make the lame a
remnant
And the outcasts a strong
nation,
And the LORD will reign
over them in Mount Zion
From now on and forever.*

Micah 4: 1-7 (NASB)

*"But as for you, Bethlehem
Ephrathah,
Too little to be among the
clans of Judah,
From you One will go forth
for Me to be ruler in Israel.
His goings forth are from
long ago,
From the days of eternity."*

Micah 5: 2 (NASB)

*He has told you, O man,
what is good;
And what does the LORD
require of you
But to do justice, to love
kindness,
And to walk humbly with
your God?*

Micah 6: 8 (NASB)

NOTES

*Who is a God like You, who
pardons iniquity
And passes over the rebel-
lious act of the remnant of
His possession?*

*He does not retain His
anger forever,
Because He delights in
unchanging love.*

¹⁹ *He will again have com-
passion on us;
He will tread our iniquities
under foot.*

*Yes, You will cast all their
sins*

Into the depths of the sea.

²⁰ *You will give truth to
Jacob*

*And unchanging love to
Abraham,*

*Which You swore to our
forefathers From the days
of old.*