

## "MICAH, WALK THRU THE BIBLE."

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First Christian Reformed Church, Lynden, WA

October 12, 2025, 6:00 pm

**Text for Sermon: Micah 1:1-7; 6:6-8; 7:7-9**

### **Introduction.**

This evening marks the half point through the 66 books of the Bible. Lord willing we will finish the 39 book of the OT before Advent.

We have seen with some of the Minor Prophets that there is no information about the prophet, where he's from, what time period he prophesied in and to whom he was prophesying. Micah answers all those questions in the first verse.

**[Micah 1:1** The word of the Lord that came to Micah of Moresheth in the days of Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah, kings of Judah, which he saw concerning Samaria and Jerusalem.

He is from Moresheth in Judah, a fertile agricultural area about 25 miles southwest of Jerusalem. He prophesied during the reigns of Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah, all kings of Judah which places him around 740 to 700 BC. His prophecy is address to Samaria and Jerusalem, the capitals of the northern kingdom Israel and the southern kingdom Judah.

During his life Israel was exiled by Assyria. Pay heed, God's warnings do come to pass. Sin brings judgment. God cannot be righteous and yet indifferent to unbelief, idolatry, injustice, covetousness, stealing, and pride:

He is a contemporary with Isaiah and Hosea, prophesying just a little after them. Micah was from a small farm town, he could have been a farmer. He may not have been much, but when the Holy Spirit filled him, it didn't matter who he was. His words weren't from him or about him. He declared the Word of the Lord. Not the word of Micah, not the word of a king, but the divinely inspired, supernatural word of the Lord God Almighty Himself.

His message is different from the leaders and prophets of the day.

**Micah 3:11** Its heads give judgment for a bribe; its priests teach for a price; its prophets practice divination for money; yet they lean on the Lord and say, "Is not the Lord in the midst of us? No disaster shall come upon us."

The false prophets preached what the people and the leaders wanted to hear. They preached what would get them compliments and raises.

They preach peace, peace when there's no peace. They preach love, love when there's a coming wrath. They preach grace, grace when there's a need to call for holiness and righteousness.

An example of this today is preachers who preach believe in Jesus without repentance, grace without law and obedience, love without discipline, God's yes without God's no.

But a real prophet sounds altogether different.

**Micah 3:8** But as for me, I am filled with power, with the Spirit of the Lord, and with justice and might, to declare to Jacob his transgression and to Israel his sin.

When God speaks He thunders, when He walks on the earth the ground shakes. When He comes the mountains will melt and the valleys will split open. The time of His coming is called the great and terrible day of the Lord.

No wonder the people of Israel at Mt. Sinai wanted Moses to stand between them and God to protect them from God.

This is what churches pay their pastors to do, to stand between them and God and to protect from God. We joke about *hellfire and brimstone* preaching and we don't want that in our church. We want to feel good when we leave church.

Yes, God is a Father God and yes God is full of mercy, grace and love. But God is also holy. He is to be loved and feared.

There is a reason the books of the prophets are still in are Bible and are still the Word of God to us and not just to the people a long time ago. We still need the prophetic rebuke. We need to hear the warning of His judgment on sin, so we turn from it.

**God's case against Judah, 6:1-7.**

Micah is God's prosecuting attorney to bring God's case against Judah in chapter 6.

**Micah 6:1-8** Hear what the Lord says:

Arise, *plead your case* before the mountains, and let the hills hear your voice.

[2] Hear, you mountains, *the indictment of the Lord*, and you enduring foundations of the earth, for the Lord has an indictment against his people, and he will contend with Israel.

[3] “O my people, what have I done to you? How have I wearied you? Answer me!

[4] For I brought you up from the land of Egypt and redeemed you from the house of slavery,

and I sent before you Moses, Aaron, and Miriam.

[5] O my people, remember what Balak king of Moab devised, and what Balaam the son of Beor answered him, and what happened from Shittim to Gilgal, that you may know the righteous acts of the Lord.”

God testifies against Judah recounting all He had done for her, His justice and mercy, how He led them out of bondage and protected them and walked with them the entire journey.

Then in verse 6 Judah mounts her defense, trying to appease God with an offer of burnt offerings and sacrifices of rams and oil, even their firstborn son if He wants.

[6] “With what shall I come before the Lord, and bow myself before God on high? Shall I come before him with burnt offerings, with calves a year old?

[7] Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams, with ten thousands of rivers of oil?

Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?”

They don't get it, they have forgotten what God requires. They treat God like an idol, as if some rituals should satisfy Him. Maybe even a son? This is an abomination to God. How is this possible? How have things gotten to this point? Why have they lost their way?

***Two words: unrighteous leaders.***

**Micah 2:1-2** Woe to those who devise wickedness and work evil on their beds!

When the morning dawns, they perform it, because it is in the power of their hand.

[2] They covet fields and seize them, and houses, and take them away;

they oppress a man and his house, a man and his inheritance.

**Micah 3:9-11** Hear this, you heads of the house of Jacob and rulers of the house of Israel,

who detest justice and make crooked all that is straight,

[10] who build Zion with blood and Jerusalem with iniquity.

[11] *Its heads give judgment for a bribe; its priests teach for a price; its prophets practice divination for money; yet they lean on the Lord and say, "Is not the Lord in the midst of us? No disaster shall come upon us."*

The rulers abhor justice, pervert equity, shed blood, approve of evil and take bribes.

Micah 3:11 is a summary of how bad things have become, a summary of how far they have fallen.

So back to the court case in Micah 6:1-8. God answers their defense in verse 8.

**Micah 6:8** He has told you, O man, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to *do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?*

This is true religion, this is what real faith in God looks like.

As then it is still true today, religion that is merely outward is powerless and worthless. It is not displays of worship but a righteous way of life that proves a relationship with God.

### **Do Justice.**

Justice is directly connected to the character and nature of God.

**Deuteronomy 32:4** "The Rock, his work is perfect, for all his ways are justice. A God of faithfulness and without iniquity, just and upright is he.

Have you ever thought about where our sense of justice comes from? We have it because the universe is created by a just God and we are made in the image of a just God. We get our sense of justice from God. A person who doesn't believe in God and believes in evolution is hard pressed to explain where humans get their sense of justice, of right and wrong, good and evil. Animals don't have it, why do we? Because of the image of God imprinted in us.

Justice extends beyond what is legal or illegal, to what is ethical. Lying, cheating, greed, covetousness, adultery may all not be illegal but they are unethical and a violation of God's justice. We are bound not only to do what is legally right but what is morally right.

God cares about justice. He ordained leaders to execute his justice. When leaders are unjust the wrath of God is stirred up.

Doing justice applies to all of us. Those who use their power unfairly or unjustly will come under judgment. To act justly means that those for whom we have responsibility benefit from our power, influence and resources.

How do we treat others? How do we treat those who serve us or wait on us or check us out or repair something, or clean our hotel rooms or care center rooms? We are to be imitators of God, walking in holiness and righteousness.

### **Love Mercy/Kindness.**

Mercy here is that wonderful Hebrew word, *hesed*, which means steadfast love, unfailing love, covenant kindness.

We are not just to show mercy/kindness, but to love it. Nowhere do we imitate God more than when we show and give mercy. It's truly God-like.

**Micah 7:18** Who is a God like you, pardoning iniquity and passing over transgression for the remnant of his inheritance? He does not retain his anger forever, because he delights in *steadfast love*.

We should absolutely love mercy since God has been so incomprehensibly merciful toward us. We owe everything in our lives to God's mercy.

Showing mercy is helping anyone who is in need. If someone has a need and you have some means, then show the mercy of God to them by helping. Showing mercy is helping someone who has wronged us.

### **Walk Humbly with Your God.**

What is the greatest commandment? To love God with all our heart and to love our neighbor.

Do justice and love mercy are the second half of the Ten Commandments, walk humbly with your God is the first half.

*Your* God. The Lord is my shepherd. It's personal, real, intimate.

*Humbly*. He must increase, I must decrease. He must be lifted up, I must bow down.

*Walk*. Discipleship, it's what we do every day, a path, a journey, a long obedience in the same direction. Not working hurriedly, but walking humbly in daily obedience to God's will.

**Ephesians 5:15-16** Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, 16 making the best use of the time, because the days are evil.

If we walk humbly with our God, doing justice and loving mercy become more natural.

*Who can do these things? Does God ever require us to do something we can't do?*

Yes, of course. He requires us to be holy. God asks of us something we can't do and then sends Jesus to do it for us and enable us.

**Micah 5:2, 4-5a** But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah, who are too little to be among the clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to be ruler in Israel, whose coming forth is from of old, from ancient days.

[4] And he shall stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the Lord, in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God.

And they shall dwell secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth.

[5] And he shall be their peace.

This is the text the three wise men quoted when they were looking for Jesus. Don't miss the significance, this prophecy of where Jesus would be born was 700 years before His birth.

In Jesus we have the fulfillment of the divine promise of another Davidic ruler, a shepherd King from the clan of Judah and from the city of Bethlehem, a righteous leader who sets a righteous example and gives us His righteousness. In Christ we have His power to love and walk in His ways.

Micah's name, "Who is Like God." Who is like God? Jesus. Who of us can do what God does? Those who are in Christ Jesus, who have His power and love and life in us by the Holy Spirit.

Just as God displayed the wonders of His salvation to Israel when in Egypt, so God again displays the wonders of His justice and mercy to the world through another Savior, Jesus.

In Jesus God settles the great court case with justice and mercy. In a stunning display of mercy, and in order to satisfy the righteous demands of justice, righteous Jesus, who knew no sin and committed no crimes, took on Himself all our sin and paid for all past, present and future crimes against God. Jesus bears God's justice so we can receive His mercy.

As His followers we are called to display the same justice and mercy. Empowered by His Holy Spirit, in Jesus I can do justly, in Jesus I can love mercy, and in Jesus I can walk with humility. Only then.

Is there any injustice in your life, any lack of mercy or kindness you need to repent of?

**Application and conclusion.**

**Micah 7:18-20** Who is a God like you, pardoning iniquity and passing over transgression for the remnant of his inheritance?

He does not retain his anger forever, because *he delights in steadfast love*.

19 He will again have compassion on us; he will tread our iniquities underfoot.

You will cast all our sins into the depths of the sea.

20 You will show faithfulness to Jacob and *steadfast love* to Abraham, as you have sworn to our fathers from the days of old.

What a glorious hope from a righteous God, that He should show us His hesed, His steadfast love. Let us respond by doing what God requires:

*To do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God.*

**Holy Father**, you delight to show us your patience, pity, sweetness and love. You exalt your mercy, you have made our salvation, not our punishment your glory. Where sin abounds, your grace superabounds. When we had sinned ourselves out of all hope, you came to us, you first loved us and saved us. Death and hell and Satan don't have the last word, you do in the Word who became flesh and revealed your glory to us. All glory and praise and honor to you. Amen.