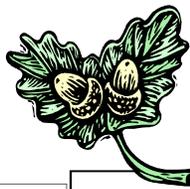


July 12, 2015



# Oaks Early Risers Bible Class

The Oaks  
Baptist Church  
Grand Prairie, Texas

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**FOOD FOR THOUGHT**

**THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK:**

Like Jesus, we are to sow good seed in all places at all times. God does not want us to reap destruction, so He wants us to sow what is good and right (Prov. 11:18). We are to sow seeds that will reap eternal life (Gal. 6:8).

**POEM FOR THE WEEK:**

Sow a thought, reap an act;  
Sow an act, reap a habit;  
Sow a habit, reap a character;  
Sow a character, reap a destiny.  
—Anon.

**SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK:**

*The wicked man does deceptive work, But he who sows righteousness will have a sure reward.*

(Prov 11:18 NKJV)

(From "Our Daily Bread", Sep 8, 2014)

**Series: GOD DEMANDS JUSTICE**

UNIT: Micah Calls for Justice  
Among Unjust People

NEXT WEEK

**What the Lord Requires  
(Micah 6:3-8)**

## No Tolerance for Corrupt Officials Micah 3:5-12

**Aim and Application of the Lesson**

The lesson examines how there should be **No Tolerance for Corrupt Officials**. The study's aim is to show that avoiding false messages from false prophets is essential to a righteous and fruitful walk with the Lord. The study's application is to demonstrate how we can prepare ourselves to avoid the false messages and obey the true ones of our day.

*(Adapted from the Bible Expositor and Illuminator Commentary)*

**Lesson Introduction and Background**

The leaders of God's people in Micah's day had shown no self-discipline in shaping their lives after God's holy standards. These frauds even dared to use the Lord's name to support their agendas, claiming that any threat of disaster or judgment should not be taken seriously. This problem could not go unchallenged. Leadership is an important topic and receives significant attention in many churches today, as it should. While the New Testament is our primary guide in training and setting standards for church leaders, Old Testament prophets like Micah also have much wisdom to offer concerning leadership.

Micah 3 begins with a verbal "grabbing by the lapel" to get the attention of the leaders of God's people. The prophet describes them as those "who hate good and love evil" (Micah 3:2), a direct contrast with another prophet's command to "hate evil, love good" (Amos 5:15). Micah didn't stop there. He took his critique a step further, characterizing the leaders as vicious cannibals "who tear the skin from my people and the flesh from their bones; who eat my people's flesh" (Micah 3:2, 3). So savage were these individuals in their callous treatment of others that only a metaphor as gruesome as cannibalism would do. Lest we become put off by such language or view it as limited to the world of the Old Testament, consider Paul's warning in Galatians 5:15: "If you bite and devour each other, watch out or you will be destroyed by each other." This warning was not addressed to church leaders only but to everyone in the churches in Galatia. Only God himself knows how many churches have been damaged, in some cases irreparably, by such cannibalism.

Micah's words about corrupt, deficient leadership can bring to mind troubling applications to today's society. We see evidence of corruption almost daily on every level—locally, statewide, nationally, and internationally—and in many areas (church, school, and workplace, etc.). How can we as followers of Jesus make a difference? Where do we start? Three suggestions can be offered. First, pray. Paul's instructions to Timothy is the model: "I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people—for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness" (1 Timothy 2:1, 2). Paul encouraged prayer for all in authority that we as Christians may be able to fulfill our God-appointed ministry of living lives pleasing to him. Such lives can witness to others of God's grace and generate questions from those who want to know more about "the reason for the hope that [we] have" (1 Peter 3:15). Second, work with them. It is all too easy to criticize leaders instead of finding creative, constructive ways to build relationships and work with them without compromising Christian principles. There is indeed a time to confront leaders who are in the wrong (Daniel 3:16-18; Acts 4:19; 5:29). Knowing when to cooperate and when to confront requires discernment. Third, become one of them. Serving in positions of leadership on a local, state, or national level is not the calling for everyone.

*(Adapted from the NIV Standard Lesson Commentary)*

## NOTES AND CROSS-REFERENCES

### **CORRUPTION OF FALSE PROPHETS (MICAH 3:5-7)**

#### *Leading people astray (5)*

Astray by wicked men (Deut 13:12-15)

Astray by false prophets (Mark 13:22)

Astray by those within the congregational church (Acts 20:30)

Astray by the lustful desires of sinful human nature (2 Peter 2:18-19)

#### *No spiritual insight (6)*

No spiritual insight because of not having the indwelling Holy Spirit (1 Cor 2:14)

No spiritual insight because of not being able to spiritually hear (John 8:43)

No spiritual insight because of not being one of God's sheep (John 10:26-27)

No spiritual insight because of being blinded by Satan (2 Cor 4:4)

#### *No word from God (7)*

No word from God because of not being able to bear it (John 16:12)

No word from God because of sin in life (1 Pet 2:1-2)

No word from God because of tradition and nullifying God's word (Matt 15:5-6)

### **JUDGMENT OF FALSE PROPHETS (MICAH 3:8-12)**

#### *Judgment using the power of God (8)*

Using God's power because only God can judge (Ps 75:7)

Using God's power because God's judges are righteous (Ps 96:13)

Using God's power because the spiritual are not subject to man's judgment (1 Cor 2:15)

Using God's power because God exposes motives (1 Cor 4:5)

#### *Judgment for perversion of justice (9)*

Perversion of justice by withholding justice from aliens, fatherless and widows (Deut 27:19)

Perversion of justice by not judging uprightly (Ps 58:1-2)

Perversion of justice by not pleading or defending the case of the poor (Jer 5:28)

#### *Judgment for bribery (10-11)*

Judgment for bribery because of acquitting the guilty (Isa 5:22-23)

Judgment for bribery without the fear of God (2 Chron 19:7)

Judgment for bribery in secret (Prov 17:23)

#### *Judgment for ruining people and their cities (12)*

Ruining through being complacent (Zeph 1:12-13)

Ruining through killing those who God has sent (Luke 13:34-35)

Ruining through sin throughout the country (Jer 17:3)

Ruining through not listening to God (Jer 35:17)