

Mar 22, 2020



Oaks Early Risers Bible Class

The Oaks Baptist Church
Grand Prairie, Texas

Lesson Leaders:

James Haymon

Class Leaders:

Inreach: Pat Hester

Deacon: C M Hester

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK:

The new birth creates a new appetite and requires a new diet

POEM FOR THE WEEK:

O child of God, guard well your eyes From anything that stains the heart; Forsake those things that soil the mind— Your Father wants you set apart. —Fasick

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK:

Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth
(Col 3:2 NKJV)

(from "Our Daily Bread", Jan 05, 1994)

Series: Justice and the Prophets

UNIT: God Requires Justice

NEXT WEEK

Need for Just Leaders
(Malachi 2:1-9; 3:5-6)

An Argument Against Corruption Micah 3:1-3, 9-12; 6:6-8

Lesson Background and Introduction

Micah's ministry took place in the second half of the eighth century BC. His times were full of turmoil and uncertainty for both Israel (the northern kingdom) and Judah (the southern kingdom). The Assyrians were a formidable threat to both kingdoms. They were the instrument in God's hands to carry out His judgment against Israel when the capital city of Samaria fell in 722 BC. Micah's ministry may have overlapped with that of Amos. Micah courageously confronted the tragic lack of godly leadership for the people of God. While Micah's words in the concluding portion of our printed text apply to all God's people, they most certainly need to be exemplified in the lives of their leaders. One thinks of how Jesus looked at the masses in His day and saw them as "sheep having no shepherd" (Matthew 9:36). The same terminology could have been used to describe the people in Micah's day, given how corrupt the leadership had become. What a difference it would have made if those leaders had taken the words in Micah 6:8 to heart! Church leaders today would do well to make those words their standard of conduct. But whether Christian leaders are aligned with God's will or not, the priesthood of all believers must still bring their lives to God as sacrifices (Romans 12:1; 1 Peter 2:5). Jesus has paid the price (Hebrews 7:27, 28). We do not worry about offering rivers of oil or thousands of animal sacrifices. Let us therefore search our hearts for strongholds that resist practicing justice and mercy. In humility, may we seek to please the Lord with our whole lives.

(Adapted from the NIV Standard Lesson Commentary)

The Message of Micah - God sent His messenger to Samaria and Jerusalem. In his first messages, the prophecies are generally focused on God's people. However, later he pointed his finger at the leaders, the princes, prophets, and priests. Micah called on these leaders of the country to begin demonstrating right living and justice.

Lack of Justice at the Helm - The leaders of God's people are commissioned to fairly represent the people and stand for righteousness on their behalf. The job requires upholding justice, defending the innocent, and declaring punishment on the guilty. Sadly, the leaders in Micah's time acted the opposite. They cruelly mistreated and oppressed the people. They violated their rights and unmercifully used them, stripping away their resources to divide up their goods among themselves. Scripture paints a disturbing picture of a vicious predator violently destroying its prey. The arrogant leaders thought so highly of themselves that repentance never crossed their minds. They routinely carried out the Jewish religious rituals and mistakenly assumed they were fine. They walked around pretending to depend on God with no genuine heart toward Him at all. They smugly believed that God would come to their rescue if they needed Him because, after all, they were His chosen people.

The Consequences - God showed His displeasure with this kind of attitude by allowing Judah to be overtaken and Jerusalem destroyed. But those who listened to Micah's stern warning asked God what to do, what to bring to Him. Did He want more offerings, more oil, more sacrificed rams? The Lord responded that those things were not what He wanted. What the Lord desired then, and still today, is a heartfelt, real commitment and loyalty to Him. First, be fair in your treatment of others. Do to people as you would want to be treated. Second, since the Lord loves mercy, He asks the same of His children. God's family is to be known by its benevolence, tenderness, pity, and forgiveness toward offenders. Finally, His children must walk meekly with Him, continuously acknowledging His presence.

(Adapted from the Echoes Commentary)

NOTES AND CROSS-REFERENCES

Hating Good and Loving Evil (Micah 3:1-3)

Hating good and loving evil is not knowing true justice (1)

- Because of ungodly judgment (1 Cor 6:1-6)
- Because of unjust judgment (Ps 82:2)
- Because of violent injustice (Ps 58:2-3)
- Because of being unconcerned about justice (Prov 29:7)
- Because of oppressed justice (Eccl 5:8)
- Because of not persisting in justice (Luke 18:1-8)

Hating good and loving evil through being bad examples (2-3)

- Examples of disobedience (Heb 4:11)
- Examples of immorality and perversion (Jude 1:7)
- Examples of denying God (Titus 1:16)
- Examples that keep doing evil (1 Cor 10:6)

Judgment of False Prophets (Micah 3:9-12)

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)

How We Can Please God (Micah 6:6-7)

We cannot please God with ineffective worship (6)

- Ineffective worship because sin hinders worship (Isaiah 1:15-17)
- Insincere worship is not accepted by God (Isaiah 29:13)
- False worship is when there is no listening to God (Eccles. 5:1)
- False worship is not putting lessons learned into action (Ezekiel 33:31)

We cannot please God with ineffective offerings (7)

- Ineffective offerings because trying to serve two masters (Matt 6:24)
- Ineffective offerings because choosing the wrong one to serve (Josh 24:15)
- Ineffective offerings because of not following God (Matt 10:38)
- Ineffective offerings because of increased wickedness (Matt 24:12-13).

God's Requirements (Micah 6:8)

To live justly

- Justification only comes through faith in Jesus Christ (Rom 3:22-24)
- To be just is to do what is right and acceptable to God (Prov 21:3)
- To be just is to live a clean life and stop doing wrong (Isa 1:16-17)
- God loves the just and will not forsake them (Ps 37:28)
- God guards the course of the Just (Prov 2:7-8)
- To be just has the same requirements as the type of fasting that God desires (Isa 58:6-11)
- To be just is to reform our ways (Jer 7:3-6)

To love mercy

- God requires mercy because it is a blessing (Matt 5:7)
- God requires mercy because it is a prerequisite of getting mercy (Matt 18:32-35)
- God requires mercy because He is merciful and wants us to be also (Luke 6:36)
- God requires mercy because it is a characteristic of His chosen people (Col 3:12)
- God requires mercy because mercy triumphs over judgment (James 2:13)
- Mercy has as its components love, compassion, kindness and patience (Ps 103:8-14)

Walk humbly with God

- God requires humility because it is a requirement for being with Him (Isa 57:15)
- God requires humility because it shows repentance of sin (Ezek 16:63)
- God requires humility because it is a blessing (Matt 5:3)
- God requires humility because it leads to justification (Luke 18:13-14)
- God requires humility because it is a part of submission to God (James 4:7-8)
- God requires humility because it is a prerequisite of being lifted up by God (1 Peter 5:5-6)