

## Thursday, March 14

Nancy Guthrie, author of *The Word of the Lord- Seeing Jesus in the Prophets*, wrote, “Here God is essentially bringing legal charges against his people. In Micah we find accusations and evidence, a verdict and a sentence, an advocate and a judge, a plea for mercy and an undeserved pardon.” The defense as a plea for mercy presented in a complaint that God is just really impossible to please. What are your thoughts about this complaint as opposed to admitting to any sins or shortcomings you possess? Write a few thoughts here.

Rather than accept the complaint that God is impossible to please, Micah simply states that God wants us to live our lives in relationship with him. God requires us to do justice, love kindness and walk humbly with our God. Simply stated but really how difficult would it be to follow this Divine guidance? What does each of these elements of our relationship with God mean for your life? Meditate on these questions and write your reflections here.

## Friday, March 15

We read toward the conclusion of Micah’s courtroom drama that we are found guilty and yet our transgressions towards God are forgiven through the life, teaching death and resurrection of Jesus. What’s the point? If God is going to forgive us anyway why would we struggle to follow God’s guidance? Is following God’s guidance of seeking justice, loving kindness and walking humbly with our God its own reward and blessing? Or is seeking and doing the will of God simply a means of getting into heaven? This divine guidance isn’t just about our relationship with God but involves our relationships with each other. How do these three directives affect our relationships with others? Meditate on these questions and write your reflections here.

## Message Notes – March 10, 2024

### *Jesus and the Prophets*

#### *– Micah and God’s Requirements*<sup>\*</sup>

- I. Today we are studying the Hebrew prophet of Micah which is a series of oracles arranged in a \_\_\_\_\_ drama.
  - A. Nancy Guthrie wrote, “Here God is essentially bringing \_\_\_\_\_ against his people.
  - B. But we do know several \_\_\_\_\_ from Micah very well!
  - C. Micah was likely a younger contemporary of \_\_\_\_\_.
    - a. Micah identifies with the \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.
    - b. He was called by God and expressed God’s anger with the Judean \_\_\_\_\_.
    - c. We learn a great deal about our \_\_\_\_\_ from Micah and it is no coincidence that the name Micah means “Who is like \_\_\_\_\_?”
- II. So let’s dig into the \_\_\_\_\_ that is presented in Micah.
  - A. The defendants in this trial are \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_ of the earth.
  - B. Let’s examine the \_\_\_\_\_.
    1. First is \_\_\_\_\_.
    2. The second charge is \_\_\_\_\_, which led to \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.
  - C. The people are the defendants and the \_\_\_\_\_ are the coconspirators.
- III. The witnesses against the defendants, against us, are the \_\_\_\_\_ – creation itself.
  - A. The mountains witnessed the \_\_\_\_\_ God made with God’s people.

---

<sup>\*</sup>Micah 6:1-8 and Matthew 5:1-12

- B. And the mountains were there to witness the ways in which God’s people had broken those \_\_\_\_\_.
- C. Now we can consider the \_\_\_\_\_ made during the proceedings and we can read about these in verse 6-7 from Micah 6.
  - 1. Really what we are reading is no defense at all but rather a \_\_\_\_\_ that God is just really impossible to please.
  - 2. We deflect our culpability for our inability to live in light of God’s \_\_\_\_\_.

- IV. In this courtroom drama Micah deflects that blame game and simply and clearly states what God \_\_\_\_\_ from us.
  - A. What Micah wanted Israel to know – what God wants us to know today – is what really matters to God is that we act \_\_\_\_\_.
  - B. It matters to God that we love kindness or \_\_\_\_\_.
  - C. We are finally asked to walk humbly with our God which means to remember who we are in \_\_\_\_\_ to God.
  - D. Our \_\_\_\_\_ and being \_\_\_\_\_ go hand in hand.
  - E. What God requires of us is satisfied through our \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ relationship with God.
  - F. God is not simply concerned with \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ but also with \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.

### ***Daily Devotional Guide***

The following is a daily devotional and study guide meant to enhance your understanding of the message and grow as a Christian.

It is offered for your personal reflection or to share with others.

#### **Monday, March 11**

Thus far in our Lenten Message Series titled Jesus and the Prophets, we’ve considered Jonah, Hosea and Micah. Micah is different from the narrative style found in Jonah and Hosea.

Micah is a series of oracles. What do you think of when you hear the word “oracle?” Write a couple thoughts here.

An oracle in our scriptures is a divine utterance delivered to humanity, usually in response to a request for guidance. We discovered during the message that Micah is a series of oracles. What is the request for guidance? (Hint: Micah 6:8) Meditate of this question and write your reflections here.

#### **Tuesday, March 12**

Read Micah 6:1-8. The first two verses of this chapter in Micah make it clear that God has a charge to be brought against the people of God. We are a nation that loves our courtroom dramas and have loved them for a very long time; from Perry Mason to Law and Order we love to see justice delivered as offenders are punished and the offended vindicated. What’s your favorite court room drama or perhaps you prefer to watch any number of “Judge Shows” from Judy to Mathis to The People’s Court. Why do you think we like court room drama so much? Is the satisfaction of seeing justice accomplished? Is it seeing the perpetrators punished? Think about these questions and write your thoughts here.

#### **Wednesday, March 13**

Read Micah 1:1-7. The first charge against God’s people is idolatry. Idolatry is placing other “gods” above our loving Creator. Other charges are against the leaders Israel (Micah 3:9-11); they participated in dishonest and illegal business practices. The religious leaders teach for a price and the prophets practice divination for money. It is a very corrupt society. Pastor Jack compared the corruption of ancient Israel with leadership in our nation today. Is that a fair comparison? Let’s consider the first charge of idolatry – having other gods before our Creator. Is this a fair charge against humanity? Against you? Consider these questions and write your thoughts here.