

“The God Who Is” The Book of Micah

Have you ever said, “Church was really good today?” If so, what did you mean?

- The music... the people... the sermon... encouraged... feel close to God...

I’ve never heard someone say, “Church was so good today because I felt convicted by the Holy Spirit of my sin, & that conviction led me to repentance!”

Coming face-to-face with our sin is not fun! Conviction doesn’t feel good! Repentance requires confession & change, and we don’t enjoy such things!

Most of us would much rather hear feel-good messages about God’s love, receive spiritual pep talks that addresses our own felt needs, and avoid anything that might challenge us to change, or face rebuke in our lives!

But the Scriptures speak a different kind of message! They speak of a God who is holy, to a people who are not! They speak of our need for redemption!

This journey we’ve been on through the O.T., especially the Minor Prophets, has revealed much of what we often tend to gloss over in the Scriptures – We are a people in need of saving!

If we don’t acknowledge that fact, then we will never truly know the God who is! His grace, mercy & love are always tied to His holiness!

The good news of the gospel, is only good news b/c of the really bad news that exists apart from it! We see that here in this 34th book of the Bible!

Micah 1:2 - “Hear, you peoples, all of you; pay attention, O earth, & all that is in it, let the Lord God be a witness against you, the Lord from his holy temple.”

Who would want to invite God to take the stand & be a witness against us, testifying to our guilt? Who of us would honestly pray Psalm 139:23-24?

“Search me, O God, and know my heart! Try me and know my thoughts! And see if there be any grievous way in me...” This is a dangerous prayer!

But our pardon from sin exists only through the pathway of feeling the weight of our guilt and responding with true repentance & faith!

God’s grace/mercy are revealed as we recognize that we are a people in need! Left to ourselves, we will deny our guilt! We will run away from facing our sin! But we can’t hide from our need of saving!

This is the message of Scripture! This is what God wants us to hear & acknowledge! This is what He sent prophets to proclaim to His people!

Micah 1:8 – “For this I will lament & wail; I will go stripped & naked; I will make lamentation like the jackals, mourning like ostriches. For her wound is incurable, & it has come to Judah; it has reached to the gate of my people, to Jerusalem.”

Micah does everything he can to get the people’s attention, to see the depths of their sin, even to the extent of proclaiming God’s message naked!

But the people’s desire for a prosperity gospel blinded them from the truth!

Micah 2:11 – “If a man should go about & utter wind & lies, saying, ‘I will preach to you of wine & strong drink,’ he would be the preacher for this people!” What a sad commentary! But is it really any different today?

If every Sunday, I (the one speaking the Word of God to you), pointed out all the ways you have fallen short & have turned away from God, how long would it take before you would go looking for another church? Honestly?

Have you ever asked yourself questions like: “What do I really want out of a church?” “Out of a sermon?” “What do I really want from God?”

Maybe these aren’t even the right questions to be asking! Maybe the better question is, “What does God want from me?”

If we were here for God, how would that change our perspective on church? If we were here for God, what would God be saying to us today?

The book of Micah is a lot like the rest of the Bible as a whole! It speaks of the sinfulness of man, and the abundant grace of God shown to His people! It’s a testimony to God’s saving work through His Son Jesus Christ!

Micah 5:2 – “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.”

As we celebrate Christmas in July, we are reminded of our true superhero – the Shepherd-King, Jesus Christ, who came as the perfect embodiment of God’s wrath & mercy, His judgement & His favor, His Holiness & His love!

Micah’s name means “Who is like our God?” Let’s answer that question like Micah by proclaiming what God has revealed Himself to be – **Micah 7:18-20.**

“The God Who Is” The Book of Micah

Have you ever said, “Church was really good today?” If so, what did you mean?

- The music... the people... the sermon... encouraged... feel close to God...

I’ve never heard someone say, “Church was so good today because I felt _____ by the Holy Spirit of my sin, & that conviction led me to repentance!”

Coming face-to-face with our sin is not fun! Conviction doesn’t feel good!
Repentance requires confession & change, and we don’t enjoy such things!

Most of us would much rather hear feel-good messages about God’s love, receive spiritual pep talks that addresses our own felt needs, and avoid anything that might challenge us to change, or face rebuke in our lives!

But _____ speak a different kind of message! They speak of a God who is holy, to a people who are not! They speak of our need for redemption!

This journey we’ve been on through the O.T., especially the Minor Prophets, has revealed much of what we often tend to gloss over in the Scriptures – We are a people in need _____

If we don’t acknowledge that fact, then we will never truly know the God who is! His grace, mercy & love are always tied to His holiness!

The good news of the gospel, is only good news b/c of the really bad news that exists apart from it! We see that here in this 34th book of the Bible!

Micah 1:2 - “Hear, you peoples, all of you; pay attention, O earth, & all that is in it, let the Lord God be a witness against you, the Lord from his holy temple.”

Who would want to _____ God to take the stand & be a witness against us, testifying to our guilt? Who of us would honestly pray **Psalm 139:23-24**?

“Search me, O God, and know my heart! Try me and know my thoughts! And see if there be any grievous way in me...” This is a dangerous prayer!

But our pardon from sin exists only through the pathway of feeling the weight of our guilt and responding with true repentance & faith!

God’s grace/mercy are revealed as we recognize that we are a people in _____
Left to ourselves, we will deny our guilt! We will run away from facing our sin! But we can’t hide from our need of saving!

This is the message of Scripture! This is what God wants us to hear & acknowledge! This is what He sent _____ to proclaim to His people!

Micah 1:8 – “For this I will lament & wail; I will go stripped & naked; I will make lamentation like the jackals, mourning like ostriches. For her wound is incurable, & it has come to Judah; it has reached to the gate of my people, to Jerusalem.”

Micah does everything he can to get the people’s attention, to see the depths of their sin, even to the extent of proclaiming God’s message _____

But the people’s desire for a prosperity gospel blinded them from the truth!

Micah 2:11 – “If a man should go about & utter wind & lies, saying, ‘I will preach to you of wine & strong drink,’ he would be the preacher for this people!” What a sad commentary! But is it really any different today?

If every Sunday, I (the one speaking the Word of God to you), pointed out all the ways you have fallen short & have turned away from God, how long would it take before you would go looking for _____? Honestly?

Have you ever asked yourself questions like: “What do I really want out of a church?” “Out of a sermon?” “What do I really want from God?”

Maybe these aren’t even the right questions to be asking! Maybe the better question is, “What does God want _____”

If we were here for God, how would that change our perspective on church? If we were here for God, what would God be saying to us today?

The book of Micah is a lot like the rest of the Bible as a whole! It speaks of the sinfulness of man, and the _____ of God shown to His people! It’s a testimony to God’s saving work through His Son Jesus Christ!

Micah 5:2 – “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.”

As we celebrate Christmas in July, we are reminded of our true superhero – the Shepherd-King, Jesus Christ, who came as the perfect embodiment of God’s wrath & mercy, His judgement & His favor, His Holiness & His love!

Micah’s name means “Who is like _____” Let’s answer that question like Micah by proclaiming what God has revealed Himself to be – **Micah 7:18-20.**