

October 4th Sunday 2015

Text: Micah 1:14-16

Topic: Repent of your sin

In the previous verses, we see that God is the judge of towns, cities and nations. Now He talks directly to the people of Israel that because of their sins they will suffer humiliation in the hands of their enemies. Sin is a very serious matter to God. Because of his holy nature, he must be angry against it. God did not want to punish the people in Samaria and Judah. He wanted them to serve him again. And he wanted them to obey his laws. But they refused to obey him. And so in the end, they suffered the punishment that Micah described. *"I will bring a conqueror against you who live in Mareshah. He who is the glory of Israel will come to Adullam."* (v.15). He said; start to be sad because your enemies will take your precious children from you. And they will send them to exile where they will not return. These are serious matters for us today. We need to be aware of our own sin. We should confess our sin to God. He cares about us. He does not want us to suffer his punishment. And he will forgive us if we humbly invite him into our lives.

Lesson: Repent of your in and believe the gospel and you shall become an object of God's mercy.

Prayer: O God of mercy, forgive me and help me to be what you want me to be, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

October 5th Monday 2015

Text: Micah 2:1-5

Topic: Evil Leaders.

Micah was disturbed by the attitude of people who planned evil in the night and execute them in the day time. It mattered little to these proud men that they took away farms illegally and evicted families from their homes mercilessly. They practiced the world's version of the Golden Rule: "Whoever has the gold makes the rules." They forgot that the Lord owned the land, the Lord made the laws, and the Lord has compassion on the poor and oppressed. But even if these thieves had no fear of God, they should have had concern for their fellow human beings and treated them like people made in the image of God. Nevertheless these covetous sinners Micah addressed would reap what they sowed: and the dreadful harvest of their sins would one day appear (2:3-5). Their confidence would be taken from them, their authority would be gone, their crooked accomplices would turn against them and laugh at them, and their vast holdings would be snatched from their hands. They would see everything they lived for and sinned to acquire be taken over by the enemy and wasted. Many of them would go into exile and die away from the land they had coveted and stolen from innocent people. It is unfortunate that what happened during the time of Micah is happening today in our land. The rich people owned most of the land. They could do whatever they wanted. Nobody could stop them. "Might is right." If you are one of such or you conspire against the poor or the less privilege, you are advised to repent for the "Day of judgment is coming" where the just judge will surely reward everybody according to his or her deeds.

Lesson: Time is coming when God will do good things for his people, but the Evil people will not be part of it.

Prayer: It is our earnest prayer Lord that our leaders will come to understand that you own everything including them, through our Lord Jesus Christ, amen.

October 6th Tuesday 2015

Text: Micah: 2:6-11

Topic: False Prophets

God sent his prophets to warn the people about their sins. But these rich people did not want to listen to God's message. Instead, they appointed their own prophets (called the 'false prophets') to advise them. But these false prophets did not really speak God's message. Instead they said whatever the rich people wanted them to say. And the false prophets told the real prophets not to declare God's message. The false prophets said that nothing bad would happen. They pretended that God was not really angry. . It is true that God loves us, and he is kind to us, but on the other hand, we should also know that God is just and he hates evil. The false prophets were deceiving and robbing the people by giving them false assurance that everything was well in the land. These men would preach any message the people wanted to hear, just so long as they were provided with their strong drink (v.11)! The false prophets were using religion to make money and enjoy pleasure, and they had no concern for the future of the nation. Just like the time of Micah when leaders could no longer give true revelation, they no longer serve God but the rulers and the wealthy. In like manner, we have false seers, fake preachers and dubious prophets who are nothing but opportunists who get to the ministry mainly to satisfy their bellies. They say, "Thus says the Lord" when they have received no message at all from God. Our Country today has become so vain that prophets of doom make dubious predictions at the beginning of each year. They predict the death of prominent people in the society. They do these to earn respect for themselves. Such false prophets or preachers will fabricate a shallow theology that had no place for either sin or repentance. "We are God's special people," they argued, nothing will happen to you and to the land as long as you pay your tithe and participate in religious services. Such opportunists should repent and stop deceiving God's people or else the wrath of God will fall on them and their followers.

Lesson: The way we respond to God's Word indicates our relationship to the Lord. "He who is of God hears God's words; therefore you do not hear, because you are not of God" (John 8:47 NKJV).

Prayer: Lord Jesus, take over my life now so that I will live to be a true preacher of your word,

October 7th Wednesday 2015

Text: Micah 2:12-13

Topic: Hope for the future

The Lord seems to be speaking here to the entire nation ("all of you, O Jacob ... Israel," NIV), and His promise seems to reach ahead to the end times when Israel and Judah will be united and their King Messiah will reign over them. Micah describes a triumphant procession into the land, with King Messiah at the head and the Lord leading the people, just as He had led them out of Egypt (v. 13). However, until that glorious day, God will deal with the "remnant" of His people. Though the nation of Israel might rebel against God, there would always be a faithful remnant that would trust Him and seek to

do His will and God would work because of the faith of this remnant. This is also true of the professing church today, even though we fall short of his glory and gone astray, God will act because of the faith of the faithful. But for us to be part of this future promise we need to deal with our sins and willingness to believe "religious lies." We must abandon "soft religion" that pampers our pride and makes it easy for us to sin. Remember, judgment begins in the house of the Lord (1 Peter 4:17).

Lesson: The hope of the nation lies with its remnant.

Prayer: Remember us in your kingdom oh Lord.

October 8th Thursday 2015

Text: Micah 3:1-4

Topic: Message of God to the Civil Authority

Micah opened his message by rebuking the civil authorities (3:1-4), men who were not only permitting the wealthy to exploit the poor but were also doing it themselves! Leaders are supposed to love the good and hate the evil, but these men were just the opposite: they "hate the good, and love the evil" (v. 2). He accused the leaders of the house of Jacob of despising justice (v.1) God wanted the leaders to look after the poor people, like shepherds who look after sheep. Instead, the leaders decided to act like butchers, who kill sheep. So these leaders used their power to make poor people suffer. The leaders did not care what happened to the poor people. They only wanted to make themselves wealthier. Having done all these to the poor masses they have the guts to ask for God's help when they found themselves in trouble. They know God's promises. They know this one for example: 'He will hear those that cry to him. He will rescue them from their troubles' (Psalm 107: 6, 13, 19, 28). The message in these verses is for all people. All people have done wrong things. God promises to forgive people. But he forgives them only when they are sorry for their wrong actions. People must repent (turn away from their evil behaviour). And they must trust God. So this promise in the Psalms will not become true for these evil rulers. This is because they have not stopped their evil deeds. They have not sincerely repented.

Lesson: Avoid unrighteous acts, do what is right.

Prayer: Help me dear Lord to be a good Ambassador.

October 9th Friday 2015

Text: Micah 3:5-8

Topic: Message to the False Prophets

Micah then turned to rebuke the false prophets (3:5-8), whose lies made it easy for the corrupt officials to carry on their evil deeds. They are as terrible as snakes! They would do anything in order to get money and food from people. The political class pays the false prophet for a message that the rulers wish to hear. They pay money for lies. God has given to these prophets the gifts, the authority or power that they need. But they have no courage or moral strength to rebuke because they are corrupt. But the time would come when these men who claimed to see the light would be shrouded in darkness, and everybody would know that they were counterfeits. They would cry out to the Lord, but He would not answer. *"The seers will be ashamed and the diviners disgraced. They will all cover their faces because there is no answer from God"* (v.7).

Not all who claim to be “Men of God” are true prophets or preachers of the word of God. Our nation has produced so many unfaithful and self-confessed prophets who go about cheating people. They are so many fake religious leaders in our society today, which makes it difficult to know the genuine from fake. But the Bible says, “You should know them by their fruits.” Members are advised to test the spirit and ask God to expose fake prophets. While the prophets should learn to live like prophet Micah who is bold to say, *“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, to Israel his sin”* (v.8).

Lesson: The prophets will be ashamed and the experts will be confused. They will all cover their faces in shame. They will get no message from God and He will not answer them.

Prayer: God, help us to have the courage and boldness to rebuke evil in our society, in Jesus’ name, Amen.

October 10th Saturday, 2015

Text: Micah 3:9-12

Topic: Message to all leaders of the Land

Micah also addressed all the leaders of the land (3:9-12)-the rulers, the priests, and the prophets — and accused them of numerous sins: committing injustice, distorting the truth, murdering innocent people, accepting bribes, and while doing these evil deeds, claiming to be serving the Lord! “We are depending on the Lord,” they said, “Is He not among us? Then nothing evil can happen to us.” It was hypocrisy of the worst kind. Their ignorance of the Lord's character and the terms of His covenant gave them this false confidence. “Since we're Jews,” they reasoned, “God's chosen people and sharers in His covenant, the Lord will never permit anything evil to happen to us. Even if we sin, He will never abandon us to the enemy.” Their thinking was not unlike that of people today who “profess that they know God; but in works they deny Him” (Titus 1:16). Any theology that makes it easy for us to sin is not biblical theology. If Micah were ministering among us today, he would probably visit denominational offices, pastors' conferences, Bible colleges, and seminaries to warn Christian leaders that privilege brings responsibility and responsibility brings accountability. As Ministers of the sacred things secular and religious leaders should know that they are custodians and administrators of God’s truth, they have the responsibility to keep and interpret the word of God.

Lesson: *“For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive what is due him for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad”*(2 Cor 5:10) NIV

Prayer: Help me to live upright before God as a chosen person, Amen.