
RELATED SCRIPTURES

STUDY FOR SERMON FROM 2.26.23

Deuteronomy 18:20 | Matthew 18:5-6 | Matthew 7:15-23

SUMMARY

As Micah continues his words of judgment over Israel and Judah, his message now takes aim at the religious rulers—the prophets. Anyone who called themselves a prophet was making an audacious claim. To be a prophet was to be the very mouthpiece of God—a high calling that had to come from God himself. So there were those in Micah’s time who claimed to be prophets but invalidated their own prophecies when they didn’t come true; they were inaccurate and, therefore, couldn’t be of God. The accusation Micah makes against these prophets is that they have led God’s people astray by proclaiming peace (shalom) to those who would pay them to do so (“when they have something to eat”). So the punishment pronounced against these false prophets is elaborate (vs. 6-7). Micah announces that these “seers” and “diviners” will go dark; they will be silenced and shamed, and the people will no longer listen to them. Despite their veneer of holiness, Micah demonstrates that they are without God’s Spirit and, therefore, without power to withstand divine judgment. In verse 8, Micah establishes himself as the true prophet of God; his is a message directly from the Spirit of God, unlike the other so-called prophets. Micah’s words contained what the others lacked: justice. While this is a poignant message for the people of God in Micah’s time, it’s also a foreshadowing of the one who would come to bring justice on a grand scale to the nations; Jesus Christ, the true *Word of God* made flesh, who came to perfectly satisfy God’s justice and bring peace (shalom) to his people.

GROUP QUESTIONS

From the sermon or your direct reading of Micah 3:5-8, share something that surprises, encourages, or troubles you.

Once again, Micah’s message is filled with harsh words, mainly aimed at those speaking falsely on God’s behalf. Is this something the church still must be cautious of today? How can we safeguard against false teachers?

Micah’s words were distinct from the words of the false prophets in that they reflected God’s justice. How does Christ usher in God’s justice? How does this impact the life of the believer? How should this be reflected in the life of the believer?

If there’s one thing Jesus would want you to walk away believing and receiving as a result of this portion of Scripture, what is that thing?

CLOSE IN PRAYER

As you pray, be sure to include today’s themes in what you bring before God.