

Micah 2-4

God's Judgement, Justice and Mercy

Recap - Micah, a nobody from nowhere, had a message from God for his people that shows God's heart for the poor, vulnerable, down trodden... The message was that God sees the way they treat others and that their injustice, immorality and idolatry had left them facing judgement. That God was going to step in and do something.

Micah 2.1-11 Judgement on Injustice

2.2-5 Micah rebukes oppressive rulers

2.6-11 Micah calls out oppressive prophets

Micah 2.12-13 The shepherd king will gather God's people again (we'll come to this later)

The rulers and prophets are being exposed for taking advantage of the poor for their own personal gain.

Micah 3.1-12 More judgement on unjust leaders and rulers

3.1-8 Unjust judges & untrue prophets

3.9-12 Jerusalem's downfall because of them.

Micah 4 Mercy promised for the nation

4.1-5 Salvation in Zion

4.6-13 Salvation from enemies

Living post Jesus' death a resurrection we know we have salvation from Jesus. Who took our unrighteousness/injustice upon himself on the cross and rose again was declared the righteous one

Biblical Justice

1. Equal treatment of everyone

- Leviticus 24.22 - *You are to have the same law for the foreigner and the native-born."*
- Leviticus 19.15 - *Do not pervert justice; do not show partiality to the poor or favouritism to the great, but judge your neighbour fairly.*
- Acts 10.34 *'I now realise how true it is that God does not show favouritism'*
- We are *all* made in the image of God

2. Special concern for those without economic power

- **Advocacy** –
 - Proverbs 31.8-9 *Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves, for the rights of all who are destitute. 9 Speak up and judge fairly; defend the rights of the poor and needy.*
 - Psalm 41.1 *Blessed are those who have regard for the weak.(regard=thinking, planning and action)*
- **Our practices** –
 - Deut 24.17 *Do not deprive the foreigner or the fatherless of justice, or take the cloak of the widow as a pledge.*
 - Proverbs 14.31 - *Whoever oppresses the poor shows contempt for their Maker*
 - Proverbs 19.17 - *Whoever is kind to the poor lends to the Lord,*

God bends to the poor and the vulnerable so should we.

3. Radical generosity

- Not charity but justice
 - Psalm 112.9 *They have freely scattered their gifts to the poor, their righteousness*
 - Matthew 6.1-2 *'Be careful not to practise your righteousness in front of others to be seen by them (talking about giving to the needy)*
 - Deuteronomy 24 – Farming in such a way as to intentionally leave some for the needy.
 - Nothing wrong with making profit and economic gain but not at the complete expense of generosity to those who need it.
- Farming principle applies to our pay check, do we leave some for the poor and vulnerable as a matter of living righteously, justly.