

The Unrivalled God- The God of Peace (Micah 3-4)

Nic Babbs

November 30, 2025

Dominant Thought: God calls us to be peacemakers.

Objectives:

I want my listeners to know the background of Hezekiah.

I want my listeners to feel hope in the hopeless.

I want my listeners to restore relationships with peace.

FOCUSING QUESTION: How are the flesh and the Spirit different?

INTRODUCTION:

Have any of you heard of the preacher/author that goes by the name Francis Chan? You may know him by some of the RightNow Media videos that we provide. He is a Christian book writer that likes to help others focus on building a stronger and more committed faith. He has done so by writing many popular books over the years. My two personal favorites are called "Crazy Love" in which he talks about God's abounding love for us and "Forgotten God" discussing the Holy Spirit. In these two books alone, it is estimated that he has made 7 million dollars, not counting many other books that he has written as well. Something else you need to know is that Francis Chan didn't keep all that money. He and his wife believe that money can become an idol, so they signed all proceeds over to a charity trust and to this day they live simply.

Today is our second week going through our series in Micah. Warren ran us through Micah chapters 1-2. He mentioned the 3 kings that Micah is talking to and he dug a little deeper into one of those kings, Ahaz. Ahaz was a bad dude; so bad that when he died, they did not honor him as a king because he was so bad. This week I would like to look more into one of the other kings that Micah is talking about, Hezekiah. Let's look at 2 Chronicles 32:24-33:

'In those days Hezekiah became ill and was at the point of death. He prayed to the Lord, who answered him and gave him a miraculous sign. But Hezekiah's heart was proud and he did not respond to the kindness shown him; therefore the Lord's wrath was on him and on Judah and Jerusalem. Then Hezekiah repented of the pride of his heart, as did the people of Jerusalem;

therefore the Lord's wrath did not come on them during the days of Hezekiah. Hezekiah had very great wealth and honor, and he made treasuries for his silver and gold and for his precious stones, spices, shields and all kinds of valuables. He also made buildings to store the harvest of grain, new wine and olive oil; and he made stalls for various kinds of cattle, and pens for the flocks. He built villages and acquired great numbers of flocks and herds, for God had given him very great riches. It was Hezekiah who blocked the upper outlet of the Gihon spring and channeled the water down to the west side of the City of David. He succeeded in everything he undertook. But when envoys were sent by the rulers of Babylon to ask him about the miraculous sign that had occurred in the land, God left him to test him and to know everything that was in his heart. The other events of Hezekiah's reign and his acts of devotion are written in the vision of the prophet Isaiah son of Amoz in the book of the kings of Judah and Israel. Hezekiah rested with his ancestors and was buried on the hill where the tombs of David's descendants are. All Judah and the people of Jerusalem honored him when he died. And Manasseh his son succeeded him as king.'

2 Chronicles 32:24-33

Hezekiah was a king that had his highs and lows. He was not bad like Ahaz was, though he became prideful and greedy towards the end of his ruling. Within Micah chapter 3, there are 3 problems and consequences that Micah addresses to these leaders of Judah and Israel. John 3:6 says,

'Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit.'
John 3:6

Later in Micah he will say that he is filled with the Spirit of the LORD, and it seems as though these leaders are living by the acts of the flesh, similar to the Pharisees in the Gospel.

Our first problem and consequence addressed is that the flesh lacks justice and God will hide his face from them because of the lack of justice.

1. Problem: Flesh lacks justice
Punishment: God will hide

Micah 3:1-4 says this:

'Then I said, "Listen, you leaders of Jacob, you rulers of Israel. Should you not embrace justice, you who hate good and love evil; who tear the skin from my people and the flesh from their bones; who eat my people's flesh, strip off their

skin and break their bones in pieces; who chop them up like meat for the pan, like flesh for the pot?" Then they will cry out to the Lord, but he will not answer them. At that time he will hide his face from them because of the evil they have done. '

Micah 3:1-4

Micah points out the leaders' flaws and relates them to cannibals. The message version says, "they throw it in a pot for cannibal stew," due to the leaders of the law hating evil and loving good. The consequence is that the LORD is going to hide from them. Romans 12:9 calls us to hate what is evil and to cling to what is good. The leaders are doing the absolute opposite. With this idea from Micah, it is hard to get your head around God hiding from us. Our God is omnipresent and all knowing, how can He hide from us? The main point is that our sin separates us from God, which can be noticed in the next points as well. We saw it in the Garden of Eden. Adam and Eve sinned and due to that they had to leave. The leaders in our text are unjust leaders. They value the wrong things. The flesh lacks justice. God on the other hand does value justice, while at the same time being gracious. Back in Exodus God was just when He delivered ten plagues on Egypt because Pharaoh had the Israelites under slavery and would not free the Israelites. That was a just moment. Beth Brosi and I teach the 3rd-5th grade J.A.M class at 9:00am. In the last 4 weeks we have talked about Jonah. Jonah was called to Nineveh, but he didn't want to go. So, he runs away by getting on a boat. A big storm comes. They throw Jonah overboard and he gets eaten by a fish. After praying in the fish, he is spit back on land, and Jonah went to Nineveh. God had said that he was going to destroy Nineveh, but at the end of Chapter 3 of Jonah, God relented and did not bring destruction to Nineveh. Our God has a good balance of justice and grace. Our flesh lacks justice and in doing so God will hide. It is like playing hide and seek but never finding the hider.

The second problem and punishment are that flesh lures astray and God will not answer them.

2. Problem: Flesh lures astray
Punishment: God will not hear

'This is what the Lord says: "As for the prophets who lead my people astray, they proclaim 'peace' if they have something to eat, but prepare to wage war against anyone who refuses to feed them. Therefore night will come over you, without visions, and darkness, without divination. The sun will set for the prophets, and the day will go dark for them. The seers will be ashamed and the diviners disgraced. They will all cover their faces

because there is no answer from God.” 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. ’
Micah 3:5-8

The leaders are not only unjust, but they also lure astray. I find it funny that in this text the leaders think that they are presenting peace, but they wage war against each other. The leaders claim to be peaceful but also warful at the same time; no wonder they are luring astray. Has anyone been to a cross country meet before? Sometimes they have someone on a four-wheeler or golf cart or something in order to keep the lead runner on course. Imagine that four-wheeler did not follow the right course, then the runners would run off track and would eventually get further and further away from the track as the rider continued to go the wrong way. These leaders were good at going the wrong way. One of the kings that Micah writes to is Jotham. He was a king that was seen as someone good in the eyes of the LORD, but his people continued to do corrupt things. Even if you ride the four-wheeler on the right path, it won’t matter if your runners are not following you, so there needs to be some accountability as well. Micah is talking to leaders, but this message is not only to the leaders of the church, every follower of Jesus is a leader in some kind of way. Due to the kings luring others astray, there will be no answer from God. It is like trying to play Marco Polo without the other person saying “Polo”.

Jesus on the other hand goes out to get the ones that are lured astray. In Luke 15 Jesus uses the Parable of the lost sheep. It says this,

‘Now the tax collectors and sinners were all gathering around to hear Jesus. But the Pharisees and the teachers of the law muttered, “This man welcomes sinners and eats with them.” Then Jesus told them this parable: “Suppose one of you has a hundred sheep and loses one of them. Doesn’t he leave the ninety-nine in the open country and go after the lost sheep until he finds it? And when he finds it, he joyfully puts it on his shoulders and goes home. Then he calls his friends and neighbors together and says, ‘Rejoice with me; I have found my lost sheep.’ I tell you that in the same way there will be more rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who do not need to repent. ’
Luke 15:1-7

Though this story has more meaning, Jesus says that we should leave the 99 to go out and get the 1 sheep that has gone astray. The flesh lures astray, but Jesus goes out to get the ones led astray.

This is what the rest of Micah 3 says:

3. Problem: Flesh loves money
Punishment: God will destroy

'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. Hear this, you leaders of Jacob, you rulers of Israel, who despise justice and distort all that is right; who build Zion with bloodshed, and Jerusalem with wickedness. Her leaders judge for a bribe, her priests teach for a price, and her prophets tell fortunes for money. Yet they look for the Lord's support and say, "Is not the Lord among us? No disaster will come upon us." Therefore because of you, Zion will be plowed like a field, Jerusalem will become a heap of rubble, the temple hill a mound overgrown with thickets.'

Micah 3:8-12

Contrary to the leaders living by the flesh, Micah is living by the Spirit and is given power. Here we are being presented with justice again, Micah is given power with justice and might. He also points out again as to how the leaders of the law despise justice and they twist everything that is right. Verse 9 tells me everything as to why the leaders are luring astray, it's because they twist everything that is right and good, and they despise justice. The third and final problem and punishment that Micah addresses are that the flesh loves money and God will destroy them. The leaders love money; they bribe, they teach for a price, and they collect money through prophets, similar to tax collectors in the New Testament. Looking back at Francis Chan and his decision, he believed money could be an idol and therefore he did not want money to damage his relationship with God. Francis Chan decided to make minimal profit from his books because he did not want to be like these leaders of Israel and Judah. Due to this, Zion will be plowed, Jerusalem will be a heap of rubble, and the temple hill will be overgrown with thickets. A few months ago, there were miles worth of corn and beans around us, now it is all gone. It is now plowed down and is just mounds of dirt, and there will be weeds to come. This is how these cities are going to look due to their love for money. The death of our Savior, Jesus Christ, started with a bribe. In Matthew 26 Judas agrees to give in to a bribe offered by the chief priests to deliver Jesus over to them. The flesh loves money. Micah points out all the wrong to the leaders but then comes hope in chapter 4. Micah 4:1-8

'In the last days the mountain of the Lord's temple will be established as the highest of the mountains; it will be exalted above the hills, and peoples will

stream to it. Many nations will come and say, "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the temple of the God of Jacob. He will teach us his ways, so that we may walk in his paths." The law will go out from Zion, the word of the Lord from Jerusalem. He will judge between many peoples and will settle disputes for strong nations far and wide. They will beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation will not take up sword against nation, nor will they train for war anymore. Everyone will sit under their own vine and under their own fig tree, and no one will make them afraid, for the Lord Almighty has spoken. All the nations may walk in the name of their gods, but we will walk in the name of the Lord our God for ever and ever. "In that day," declares the Lord, "I will gather the lame; I will assemble the exiles and those I have brought to grief. I will make the lame my remnant, those driven away a strong nation. The Lord will rule over them in Mount Zion from that day and forever. As for you, watchtower of the flock, stronghold of Daughter Zion, the former dominion will be restored to you; kingship will come to Daughter Jerusalem." '

Micah 4:1-8 NIV4

The first 3 verses in Micah are also in Isaiah 2 which was read earlier in the service during our advent time. Within verse 3, there are images of war being turned into images of peace. Swords into plowshares, spears into pruning hooks, there will no longer be war nor training for war. It is like Micah is returning to chapter 3:5 saying, "if you want peace, get rid of your war". This past week was a holiday week. There might be times in the week where you were getting tired of your family. Or you weren't sure how the thanksgiving meal was going to go because of some unsettled arguments that are still itching you at the top of the surface. How can you restore that relationship with peace? How can you replace your fighting words with forgiving words? God calls us to be peacemakers. Take that home with you to remember that you can restore relationships with peace, because God calls us to. Verse 8 finally gives us hope that there will be someone to bring restoration. His name is Jesus. He is the God of peace, the God of justice, the God that is after you, the God of restoration.