

First Monday of June 2019 – Day of Prayer of Fasting

As we continue our pattern of prayer and fasting on the first Monday of the month, many of your brothers and sisters of Intown are joining together today. In the same way, we have been joining together in reading and listening to sermons from the Prophet Micah. Our prayer and fasting guide will also gain inspiration from Micah.

As you think about the sermons from the past four weeks, what stands out to you?

What message was Micah bringing to the leaders and people of Judah/Israel?

One of the central messages of the prophet was about our hope in the midst of chaos, evil and confusion. He talked about the Lord's chosen one being born in Bethlehem in chapter 5 and the goal of God's story being Shalom. But, before there will be shalom, there will be brokenness and our lives will be unsettled.

The Prophet previews our coming hope in Chapter 4 with the following:

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.
² 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.
³ 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.
⁴ 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.
⁵ 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.

⁶ “In that day,” declares the Lord,
“I will gather the lame;
I will assemble the exiles
and those I have brought to grief.
⁷ 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.
⁸ As for you, watchtower of the flock,
stronghold^[a] of Daughter Zion,
the former dominion will be restored to you;
kingship will come to Daughter Jerusalem.”
⁹ Why do you now cry aloud—
have you no king?
Has your ruler perished,
that pain seizes you like that of a woman in labor?
¹⁰ Writhe in agony, Daughter Zion,
like a woman in labor,
for now you must leave the city
to camp in the open field.
You will go to Babylon;
there you will be rescued.
There the Lord will redeem you
out of the hand of your enemies. (NIV)

Can you imagine people “streaming” up the mountain? It seems God has the power to reverse gravity!

How do you feel as you read this prophecy? Do you have the hunger to draw closer to God’s holy mountain?

As you thank the Lord for his story and plan, pray for ways to share the story of shalom with your neighbor that may feel hopeless in the midst of evil and confusion.

Pray for people you know who need the message of a future shalom or wholeness or home.

Pray for the witness of Intown in our city and community that we may share that there is a God who can reverse the evil and injustice in the world.

What commitment might the Holy Spirit be calling you to make today?