



## Consequences of Wrongdoing

### Micah 1:1-9

- We live in a fallen world. I don't have to tell you that. It is self-evident. You see it all around you.
- We experience wrongdoing and injustices. There are people that do us and others wrong. Sometimes, it's hard to wrap our mind around generational cycles that seem unfair or wrong. At times, we fall short and do wrong as well.
- This is nothing new. It's a problem as old as the garden and the fall of man.
- Justice is a prized virtue, but it seems like a lot of people today have a lot of different definitions.
- In the past 100 years or so, Bible-believing Christians have shied away from using terms like pursuing justice. Or even looking that closely at social issues today. That's mainly in response to a movement with theological liberals in the early 1900s known as the Social Gospel. They rejected the inerrancy of God's Word and embraced a false Gospel that

sought only to help people, especially the poor, in their physical or tangible needs. They looked at only social issues and abandoned any thought of what God says concerning eternity.

- But I believe God's Word addresses both the world we live in today and the world that is to come.

- o Jesus taught us to pray for God's will to be done on earth as it is in Heaven.
- o James said that pure and undefiled religion is caring for the widows and orphans among you.
- o He, of course, also said "Faith without works is dead."
- o Jesus gave us both the Great Commission and the Great Commandment. Go and share the Gospel. And love God and others as you would love yourself.

Obviously, the most important question you could ever address is "Where will you spend eternity?" *The Great Commandment can open the door for the Great Commission.* If you meet the needs of people where they are, they are more willing to hear about the things of eternity.

- o Here in Micah, we have this well-known verse in which we are compelled to "Seek justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with your God." Micah 6:8

- The book of Micah teaches us what justice looks like and how to pursue it. When you read through this book – there's a balance between judgement and hope. The first chapter addresses how consequential it is to reject God's plan.

**Main Point: It matters how we respond when we fall short of God's standard of righteousness.**

- A few lessons to learn about when we fall. BTW, we will fall at some point.

#### I. The source of righteousness

- a. A fundamental aspect of the Christian worldview is that God is the source of truth. The world tries to advocate for a distorted view of righteousness. But we understand that the source of righteousness is not of this world.
- b. It is transcendent of our present circumstances.
- c. VERSES 2 and 3 – The Lord from His holy temple. He will come down and tread the high places of the earth.
- d. It's important to understand our place in relation to God. What motivates us to do what is right?
- e. Fear of God vs. fear of man.
- f. Fear of man
  - i. Temporary
  - ii. Based on the circumstances at hand
  - iii. Based on worldly resources or influences
    - 1. To be honest, at times I have a lead foot. But when I see a police officer, I slow down long enough to pass them.
  - iv. Leads to legalism and “behavior modification”
  - v. Based on what other's think of you
- g. Fear of God
  - i. Reverential awe for who God is
  - ii. Eternal perspective
  - iii. Based on fundamental truths
  - iv. Rooted in the realities of eternity
  - v. Leads to inward transformation

vi. Based on what God knows of you

*h. Watch out for people who have no fear of God.*

i. Micah's name means "Who is like the Lord?"

## II. The seriousness of idolatry

a. Micah addressed what's called the rebellion of Jacob and the sins of the house of Israel.

b. The root problem of this rebellion is the sin of idolatry. VERSE 7 – All her idols will be smashed.

c. There are certain messages that preachers preach today that everyone loves to hear. Messages that may tickle the ears of the hearer and sooth their consciences.

d. But my job as a preacher of God's Word is not to tell you what you want to hear but rather what you need to hear.

e. Anything. ANYTHING. that stands between you and your relationship with God is a dangerous thing.

f. I will never shy away from preaching the truth – the way of the world leads to a path of destruction. The way of God leads to eternal life.

i. This is the hope of mankind. Why would we not be serious about that?

Why would we not be clear in proclaiming that? Why would we give

people anything else but that?

g. I'm not here to help decent people become better people. I am here to proclaim that without Jesus you and I are bound for a Devil's Hell. We are lost and undone.

Hopeless and in bondage to sin. But with Jesus we have forgiveness, freedom, and everlasting life.

- h. VERSE 9 – It has come to Judah – it has reached the gate of my people.
- i. Sin has a damaging effect on our lives if we allow it to grow and fester.

### III. Our response to fallenness

- a. Notice some important words or phrases in this passage.
- b. Lament. Heap of ruins. Rebellion. Desolate. Weep. Lamentation. Calamity. Exile. Shameful nakedness. Lament and wail.
- c. Some of these phrases illustrate the destructive nature of sin.
- d. Satan is a liar.
  - i. He will make sin seem enticing and fun. He will tell you that you're missing out if you don't engage in it.
  - ii. At times he will tell you it's not that big of a deal.
  - iii. He may call into question what God really said – that's the oldest trick in the book.
  - iv. He may call into question the very existence of God.
  - v. He may call into question the very existence of HIMSELF.
  - vi. He may encourage you to focus on the sins of others and not yourself.

#### 1. Hymn based on Psalm 139

1 Search me, O God, and know my heart today;  
try me, O Savior, know my thoughts, I pray.  
See if there be some wicked way in me;  
cleansing me from ev'ry sin and set me free.

2 I praise Thee, Lord, for cleansing me from sin;  
fulfill Thy Word and make me pure within.  
Fill me with fire where once I burned with shame;  
grant my desire to magnify Thy name.