



Godly Leadership

Micah 3:5-8

- I am reminded this Graduate Sunday that in raising up the next generation, we are raising up our future leaders.
- Everyone has a sphere of influence. For some, it is with the people in their own home. For others, it may be entire groups of people at work or in the community.
- We celebrate milestones like graduation, and it comes down to one day on a calendar. But that one day is the culmination of years and years of preparation.
- Preparation for what?
 - o As believers, it is preparation to engage in this world for God's glory and the good of others.

- We hope our children and those in the church will grow up to become responsible, full of character, trustworthy, successful, but most of all...beacons of light for the Gospel of Jesus Christ.
- To the graduates with us today: God has not brought you this far to keep you comfortable. He has equipped you for a purpose that extends beyond a career — He is calling you to lead.

Main Point: **God expects leaders to pursue righteousness in their spheres of influence.**

I. Caring for others

- In Micah 3:5**, the false prophets are condemned not because they lack position or power, but because they used their influence for selfish gain — they “cry peace” for those who feed them and “prepare war” against those who do not. Leadership was never designed to serve the leader first.
- Scripture: Mark 10:43-45 — **“Whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be slave of all. For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”**
- Illustration — **Nehemiah 5**: While leading the rebuilding of Jerusalem’s walls, Nehemiah learned that the wealthy were exploiting the poor — charging interest and taking their children as debt slaves. He stopped everything. He rebuked the nobles, restored the people’s lands, and refused his own governor’s allowance. He could have said, “That’s not my department.” Instead, he understood that godly leadership cares for the most vulnerable, even at personal cost.

- d. Quote — Charles Spurgeon: “A good character is the best tombstone. Those who loved you and were helped by you will remember you when forget-me-nots have withered. Carve your name on hearts, not on marble.”
- e. Graduate Application: As you step into your careers, classrooms, and communities, the question God is asking is not “How far will you go?” but “How many will you lift up?” Seek roles not for what you can take from them, but for the good you can do through them. Use your education for God’s glory and the good of others.

II. Walking closely with God

- a. VERSES 6 and 7
- b. Scripture: Proverbs 3:5-6 — “Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.”
- c. Scripture: Joshua 1:9 — “Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go.”
- d. Illustration — Joshua at the Jordan: When Joshua stood at the edge of the Jordan, Moses — the greatest leader the Israelites had ever known — was dead. A nation of millions looked to Joshua. God’s first words to him were not a battle strategy; they were a command to stay close: “Do not let this Book of the Law depart from your mouth; meditate on it day and night” (Joshua 1:8). The source of Joshua’s leadership was not his resume — it was his intimacy with God.

- e. Quote — A.W. Tozer: “What comes into our minds when we think about God is the most important thing about us.” How closely we walk with God shapes every decision we will make as leaders.
- f. Graduate Application: Your degree is a tool. Your character is your foundation. Institutions hand you credentials, but only God develops character. Stay close to Him through prayer, His Word, and community with other believers. The doors your education opens will only be kept open by the integrity of your walk with God.

III. Filled with the Spirit

- a. Micah could speak with boldness, call out corruption, and pursue justice because he was “filled with power, with the Spirit of the LORD.” This is not the exclusive privilege of a prophet — it is the promise given to every believer in Christ (Acts 2:38-39).
- b. Scripture: 1 Timothy 4:12 — “Don’t let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith and in purity.” Age is not the qualification for influence — the Spirit is.
- c. Scripture: Acts 1:8 — “But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” The Spirit empowers leaders to go where the Gospel is needed most.
- d. Quote — Billy Graham: “The most important thing about a man is not what he does, but what he is. Character is what a man is when no one is looking.” Spirit-

filled leadership is not just about what you accomplish — it is about who you are becoming.

- e. Graduate Application: You are entering a world hungry for authentic, Spirit-filled leaders. Don't step into your next season powered only by ambition or education. Ask God to fill you afresh and yield to His leading. The career He calls you to may surprise you. The community He places you in may not have been your first choice. But a life surrendered to the Spirit will be a life of impact far beyond anything you could plan for yourself.

- Conclusion: God expects leaders to pursue righteousness in their spheres of influence — by caring for others, by walking closely with Him, and by being filled with His Spirit.
- The world will offer you many definitions of success. Today, on Graduate Sunday, we remind you of the one that matters most: “Well done, good and faithful servant” (Matthew 25:23).
- Go and lead well. Lead with love. Lead with integrity. Lead in the power of the Spirit. And in all things, let your life point others to the Gospel of Jesus Christ.