



To Whom Much is Given

Micah 2:1-13

- Our nation celebrates 250 years in existence this year. It's an important milestone that we should celebrate in our relatively new country. It's also a time for Christians to reflect on where we are in our society and how we can move forward in a way that glorifies God.
- ***We know where we have been. The question is where we will go from here.*** That's especially important to consider when we are dealing with such challenging times as we saw last night with yet another attempt of assassination and political violence.
- It's an important question for any believer in their personal walk with God as well.
- I bring up our 250 years of existence for a reason. We are, by virtually any measure, the wealthiest nation in the history of the world.

- Even with all our challenges, we are by far the most prosperous nation on earth. America represents 25% of the global economic output in the world while only making up 4% of the world's population.
- We have been blessed with oceans on both sides that help to insulate us from war.
- We have vast natural resources like oil, coal, timber, and farmland. We have massive navigable river systems and deep harbors.
- We are the leaders in technology, infrastructure, and medicine.
- You and I are beneficiaries of that. What a tremendous blessing from God. We have more opportunities here that most people around the world could only dream of.
- This becomes an important question for Christians – how do we steward well what God has blessed us with?

**Main Point: God desires for us to utilize resources for His glory.**

- God had a lot to say through the prophet Micah about how people in Judah and Israel were taking advantage of people who had less resources, influence, and power.
- *There were those who had great power and wealth who were taking land from families who had held it for generations and defrauding people of their rightful inheritance.*
- These were not just practical economic issues. These were issues of righteousness and justice.

#### **I. Repercussions of greed**

- a. What God is addressing here is greed, plain and simple.
  - i. There are lots of people throughout time who have thought they had to answer to dealing with greed. Karl Marx and others put greed into the framework of a war between classes of people. Communism sought to

forcefully spread wealth around to others in society. Turns out that doesn't really work the way they thought it would.

- ii. **Illustration:** For decades, Bernie Madoff was one of the most trusted names on Wall Street. Charities, retirees, and working families handed him their life savings. He used that trust and his position of extraordinary privilege to run the largest Ponzi scheme in history — defrauding people out of \$65 billion. His victims lost everything. He died in federal prison. What Micah is describing is not an ancient problem unique to Israel — it is the timeless consequence of using power and resources for self-interest at the expense of the vulnerable. There is always a reckoning. God always sees it.

- b. What about today? In what ways are we tempted to act out of greed or self-interest? Wealth, in and of itself, is not the problem. In fact, it can be a blessing.

- i. Lydia and the church at Phillipi, Boaz providing for Ruth, Solomon building a temple for the glory of God,

- c. **Biblical model** – take care and provide for your family. Use what you have been given to show generosity to others as you feel led by God. Take care of others as you are able. Support the work of ministry in your local church. Not by compulsion but by our own volition.

## II. **The need for conviction**

- a. There is a word that Micah shares to warn them of the consequences of their actions.
- b. They don't want to hear what Micah has to say.

- i. I think the CSB captures the heart of this passage. **Micah 2:11 – If a man comes and utters empty lies – “I will preach to you about wine and beer” – he would be just the preacher for this people.**
- ii. There really is nothing new under the Sun.
- c. Conviction begins with an honest reckoning of what we actually have. Luke 12:48 sets the standard plainly: **“From everyone who has been given much, much will be demanded.”** Americans who belong to Christ cannot claim ignorance of their blessing.
  - i. The Parable of the Talents **(Matthew 25:14–30)** reveals that God expects His resources to be put to work. The servant who buried his talent out of fear was not praised for playing it safe — he was rebuked. ***Faithful stewardship of what God has given us requires active, intentional engagement, not passive preservation.***
  - ii. Conviction without action is just guilt. The rich young ruler walked away from Jesus sorrowful because he was convicted but unwilling to act **(Luke 18:18–23)**. He knew what was required of him. He chose comfort over obedience. God is not looking for people who feel bad about their wealth — He is looking for people who respond.
  - iii. True conviction produces generosity that flows from the inside out. The early church in **Acts 2:44–45** didn’t give out of obligation — they gave because the Holy Spirit had changed their hearts. They saw one another’s needs as their own responsibility. That is what Spirit-filled stewardship looks like in practice.

### III. A future hope

- a. The passage has an interesting closing to it. After the very harsh reality that was shared through the prophet Micah, there's a transition to hope.
- b. In fact, it's a perfect example of how God is JUST and LOVING simultaneously.
- c. He will gather the remnant and lead his people like a shepherd and his sheep.
- d. *There is always hope if we turn to the Lord.***
- e. I meant to mention this last Sunday, but I may have missed it – The name Micah means – Who is like Yahweh?