

Micah 3 - Just Stop It!

Starter: What's your best or worst story of a parenting fail? Whether you were the parent or the child. Did you lose a child in a store or did you get left in a store? Did you leave a child at a party? Did you make up a completely ridiculous rule? Or do you have a story of something your parents told you that you believed way beyond the point when you should have realized it wasn't true?

In the passage this week we need to read it from the point of view of a Father God. The Jews would have had the understanding that Yahweh was their Father and by this point in the life of Judah he was getting pretty ticked off and about ready to turn the car around!

Read Micah 3.

Q. This chapter takes the form of 3 judgement oracles. Within each oracle (word from God) there is a receiver (who it's "to"), an accusation and a resulting punishment. Can you find all three in each oracle?

Q. Is there a common theme amongst each receiver?

Micah is prophesying over Judah and at this point he's speaking to the corrupt leaders - their idea of justice is what works for them - it couldn't be further from God's view of justice.

Q. What IS God's view of justice?

In the sermon on Sunday and now I'm going to suggest that his view of justice is the opposite of ours. Justice would be receiving what is fair. But God is merciful - he doesn't give us what we deserve but he does give us what we don't deserve (this is grace).

Q. How? How is God merciful and how do we receive grace? If you answer, "through Jesus" that's technically correct but it doesn't give anyone a picture of the gospel.

When we read Jeremiah 26:17-19 we find out the end result: As a result of these oracles Hezekiah repents and God redeems Judah from the impending exile (for now).

The people of Judah deserved exile - they deserved to be cut off from their inheritance. Micah points out that it's because they are rebellious (v8). Yet through one man leading his people back to Yahweh through repentance, a whole nation was saved.

In chapter 1 I suggested that Hezekiah was like Jesus in that he was the king who brought salvation to Judah. Now I'm going to suggest that he's a great example to us individually; God is merciful and he's willing to forgive us if we repent (remember 2 Kings 19).

Final: The events surrounding Micah 3 and what Hezekiah does as a result are a really good image of the Gospel message. Understanding the Gospel is key to sharing it with others. Why not try (either together or over the next weeks) to succinctly summarize the Gospel message in a way which makes sense to you and doesn't contain Christianese? If you're really stuck you can start with John 3:16.