

Micah 2 - My People Are An Enemy

Opener: How would you define success?

Amos was a prophet in Israel (the 10 northern tribes) right before Micah prophesied in Judah (and Benjamin - the 2 southern tribes). A wealthy minority had risen up in Israel and Judah and were exploiting the poor and the defenceless to make themselves richer. They saw this as God's blessing on them.

Read Micah 2:1-11

Q. Is the richness of the few a result of God's blessing? If not what in the text makes you say that?

Q. Who is perpetuating the myth of riches being God's blessing?

Q. When you think of Deut 28 (blessings and curses for obeying or disobeying the law) why is their richness not God's blessing on his people?

Q. Who is being exploited and why is this an issue particularly? (See Deut 10:18.)

Chapter 2 is all about greed and God's judgement of the greedy but the chapter ends in rather an unexpected way.

Read Micah 2:12-13.

Q. Who is this salvation oracle aimed at?

Q. What New Testament connotations are in this ending? Where is Jesus in this passage?

Q. Once you've found what the everlasting truth is (the gospel message here) what are the implications for the church through this?

Far from being a moral message of "don't be greedy" the message is eternal - everything we have belongs to God who gave up everything he had (Jesus) for our sake. Nothing we have belongs to us, it all belongs to God. He doesn't ask us to give everything up for him, but to be willing to give everything for his Kingdom.

Final: There are so many real life events and parables in the gospels that echo this message. How many can you think of?