



Outward Group Discussion Guide

September 14, 2025 (Salem)

SUMMARY

In the wake of tragedy, we're called to examine our hearts and our culture through the lens of faith. The sermon draws powerful parallels between our current societal turmoil and the prophet Micah's lament in Micah 7. We're reminded that in times of darkness and national decline, our ultimate hope lies not in political systems or ideologies, but in the Lord. The message challenges us to look outward at our culture, upward to God, and inward at our own hearts. It's a sobering yet hopeful reminder that while we may be shocked by acts of violence, the capacity for evil exists in all of us. Yet, through Christ's sacrifice, we find redemption and the strength to respond with love and truth, even in the face of adversity. This message urges us to reevaluate where we've placed our trust and to anchor ourselves firmly in the compassion and advocacy of Jesus.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. How does the assassination of Charlie Kirk challenge our assumptions about safety and evil in the world, and what spiritual lessons can we draw from this tragedy?
2. In what ways might we be putting our trust in political figures or ideologies rather than in God, and how can we refocus on looking to the Lord as our ultimate source of hope?
3. How does Micah's response to cultural decline in his time parallel our current situation, and what can we learn from his example of looking to God in troubled times?
4. Why is it important to recognize our own capacity for sin when confronted with acts of violence or evil in society, and how does this self-reflection relate to our need for God's grace?
5. How does understanding Jesus as our advocate and the one who bore God's judgment for us change our perspective on our own sins and shortcomings?
6. In what ways might God be using current events to convict people of their need for Him, and how

can we be sensitive to these opportunities for spiritual growth?

7. How can we balance speaking truth in love with the potential risks and persecution that may come from standing firm in our faith in an increasingly hostile culture?
8. What does it mean to find our vindication in Christ rather than in our own efforts or worldly successes, and how does this impact our daily lives?
9. How can we cultivate a deeper trust in God's sovereignty and compassion when faced with troubling events in our nation and world?
10. In light of the sermon's message, how might we need to reevaluate our priorities and commitments to ensure we are truly following Jesus rather than just identifying as Christian in name only?