

No God Like God: The Message of Micah For Our Generation
The Leaders: A Severe Indictment
Micah 3:1–12
September 29, 2019
Sunday Evening Bible Study

Micah 3:1–12: The Leaders: A Severe Indictment

1. Background: The Justice System Given By God
 1. The essence of the law: Love God and others by obeying the Ten Commandments (Exodus 20:1–17).
 2. The purpose of the law: To restrain evil, punish the wicked, protect the innocent and provide for the weak (Dt. 24:19–22).
 3. The rule of law: No one is above the law and all are held accountable, including kings (*lex rex*, “the law is king” vs. *rex lex*, “the king is law”) (Dt. 17:14-17).
 4. Witnesses: Tell the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth to maintain the integrity of the court (Ex. 20:16). The punishment for perjury is proportionate (Dt. 19:18).
 5. Judges (kings, rulers, government officials): Render impartial judgments so that every accused person receives due process and equal treatment under the law.
 6. Priests: Teach the law to the people so that they love God and their neighbors, thereby greatly reducing litigation (2Chr. 15:3).
 7. Prophets: Speak truth to power, 1) *encouraging* kings who personally obey and publicly enforce the law, resulting in a just society, and, 2) *excoriating* kings who personally disobey or publicly neglect or show partiality in applying the law, resulting in injustice. Note: This was an exceedingly dangerous job (2 Sam. 12:1, 1 Kings 17:1, Heb. 11:36f).
2. The Indictment of Political Leaders (3:1–3).
3. The Judgment of Political Leaders (3:4).
4. The Indictment of Religious Leaders (3:5–7).
5. The Identity of a True Prophet (3:8).
6. The Judgment of Religious Leaders (3:9)

The Influence of Christianity On Justice In United States

1. Separation of powers because no one can be trusted with much power. Every president, congressperson, and Supreme Court justice has a corrupt, fallen, sinful, proud, lying heart (Mt. 15:19).
2. Moral fitness is a requirement to hold office. Character matters (Pr. 16:12,13; 1 Kings 16:30).

“...we implore our government leaders to live by the highest standards of morality both in their private actions and in their public duties, and thereby serve as models of moral excellence and character; and . . . we urge all Americans to embrace and act on the conviction that character does count in public office, and to elect those

officials and candidates who, although imperfect, demonstrate consistent honesty, moral purity and the highest character.” (Southern Baptist Convention Resolution, 1998).

3. Corruption, abuse of power, bribery, conflict of interest, partiality and *quid pro quos*, in government are forbidden (Dt.16:19; 27:25; Pr. 18:5).
4. A free church so that 1) a prophetic voice is free to speak truth to power and 2) a compassionate people are free to care for the poor, sick, marginalized; 3) exercise political influence for a more just society (Gal. 2:10; Mt. 5:16; Jas. 2:1).
5. A free press to inform the people and publish all the facts necessary to hold government accountable and ensure equal justice under the law. Journalists make a living reporting injustice. Biased or false reporting is held in check by law (libel) and by a free market (competing journalists) (Pr. 18:17).
6. Because “all men are created equal,” no state shall “deprive any person of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws” (Gen. 1:27).

Flagrant Injustices In the History of the United States

1. The oppression of Native Americans.
2. The oppression of African Americans.
3. The oppression of white working class Americans (labor).
4. The oppression of black, brown, and white unborn Americans.

The Most Flagrant Injustice In History: He...

1. Advocated for the poor, the weak, the marginalized, the foreigner (Lk. 4:18).
2. Impartially judged the rich and poor (Jn. 19:38; Luke 19:2).
3. Poor, working class, and politically disconnected (Mt. 13:55).
4. Spoke truth to power, calling out corruption (Mt. 23:27; Jn. 19:11).
5. Became the target of entrapment by political and religious leaders (Mt. 12:10).
6. Was falsely accused by lying witnesses (Lk 23:2,10).
7. Received no legal representation in defense (Mt. 27:12).
8. Was denied due process (Jn. 18:20).
9. Was condemned by a judge who sought to preserve self-serving power (Mt. 27:24).
10. Was executed though innocent (Lk. 23:47).
11. Was vindicated in the resurrection (1 Tim. 3:16).
12. Will be fully vindicated when he comes to judge the living and the dead to execute perfect justice on the earth (2 Tim. 4:1; Phil. 2:10). On that day, the unbelievers “will cry out to the Lord but he will not answer them; he will hide his face from them at that time because they have made their deeds evil” (Micah 3:4).
13. Preached the gospel of grace (Luke 18:14). Therefore: We are not saved because we do justice in society—We do justice in society because we are saved

Reminder: The Racial Reconciliation Team Meeting is Tuesday, October 1 at 6:30 in Room 209