

FEBRUARY 16TH SERMON SLIDES

In the last days the mountain of the Lord's house will be established at the top of the mountains and will be raised above the hills. Peoples will stream to it, and many nations will come and say, "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob. He will teach us about his ways so we may walk in his paths." For instruction will go out of Zion And the word of the Lord from Jerusalem. He will settle disputes among many peoples and provide arbitration for strong nations that are far away. They will beat their swords into plows and their spears into pruning knives. Nation will not take up the sword against nation, and they will never again train for war. But each person will sit under his grapevine and under his fig tree with no one to frighten him. For the mouth of the Lord of Armies has spoken. Though all the peoples each walk in the name of their gods, we will walk in the name of the Lord our God forever and ever. On that day—this is the Lord's declaration—I will assemble the lame and gather the scattered, those I have injured. I will make the lame into a remnant, those far removed into a strong nation. Then the Lord will reign over them in Mount Zion from this time on and forever. And you, watchtower for the flock, fortified hill of Daughter Zion, the former rule will come to you; sovereignty will come to Daughter Jerusalem.

- Micah 4:1-8 (Christian Standard Bible)

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Examples of Balanced Chiasms

- *"I meant what I said, and I said what I meant."*
- *"Mankind must put an end to war, or war will put an end to mankind."*
- *"Do I love you because you are beautiful, or are you beautiful because I love you?"*

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Road Map

1. The Misuse of Opportunity (1:1-2:11)
2. The Misuse of Power (3:1-12)

3. The Misuse of Covenant (6:1-7:7)
4. Coming Judgement (2:3-5, 2:10, 3:12, 6:13-16)
5. The Hope of Restoration (2:12-13, 4:1-8, & 7:8-20)

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1. The Misuse of Opportunity (1:1-2:11)

- **The Idol of Getting Ahead**

The wickedness of Judah is in the oppression of others for the advancement of self. It is the misuse of opportunity.

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2. The Misuse of Power (3:1-12)

- **Their position of power was not the problem.**
We were never meant to live outside of the covering of authority.
- **The problem was the misuse of power.**

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3. The Misuse of Covenant (6:1-7:7)

The LORD will not be pleased by what we do, but by who we are.

- *The people of Judah had reduced their relationship with the living God to a transaction, neglecting transformation, and thus misusing their covenant.*

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4. Coming Judgement

- Against the misuse of opportunity (2:3-5, 10)
- Against the misuse of power (3:12)
- Against the misuse of covenant (6:13-16)

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5. The Hope of Restoration (2:12-13, 4:1-8, & 7:8-20)

*“I will indeed gather all of you, Jacob; **I will collect the remnant of Israel.** I will bring them together like sheep in a pen, like a flock in the middle of its pasture. It will be noisy with people. **One who breaks open the way will advance before them;** they will break out, pass through the city gate, and leave by it. Their **King** will pass through before them, **the Lord as their leader.**” - Micah 2:12-13, CSB*

*“In the last days the mountain of the **Lord’s house** will be established at the top of the mountains and will be **raised above the hills.** Peoples will stream to it, and many nations will come and say, “Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob. **He will teach** us about his ways so we may walk in his paths.” For **instruction will go out of Zion** and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem. He will settle disputes among many peoples and provide arbitration for strong nations that are far away. They will beat their swords into plows and their spears into pruning knives. Nation will not take up the sword against nation, and they will never again train for war. But each person will sit under his grapevine and under his fig tree with no one to frighten him. For the mouth of the Lord of Armies has spoken. Though all the peoples each walk in the name of their gods, we will walk in the name of the Lord our God forever and ever. On that day—this is the Lord’s declaration—I will assemble the lame and gather the scattered, those I have injured. **I will make the lame into a remnant, those far removed into a strong nation.** Then the Lord will reign over them in Mount Zion from this time on and forever. And you, watchtower for the flock, fortified hill of Daughter*

Zion, the former rule will come to you; sovereignty will come to Daughter Jerusalem.” - Micah 4:1-8, CSB

*“Do not rejoice over me, my enemy! **Though I have fallen, I will stand up; though I sit in darkness, the Lord will be my light.** Because I have sinned against him, I must **endure the Lord’s rage** until he champions my cause and **establishes justice** for me. He will bring me into the light; I will see his salvation. Then my enemy will see, and she will be covered with shame, the one who said to me, “Where is the Lord your God?” My eyes will look at her in triumph; at that time she will be trampled like mud in the streets.” - Micah 7:8-10, CSB*

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“Who is a God like you, forgiving iniquity and passing over rebellion for the remnant of his inheritance? He does not hold on to his anger forever because he delights in faithful love. He will again have compassion on us; he will vanquish our iniquities. You will cast all our sins into the depths of the sea. You will show loyalty to Jacob and faithful love to Abraham, as you swore to our fathers from days long ago.” - Micah 7:18-20, CSB

COMMUNITY GROUP QUESTIONS

1. What are three idols that fight for your affection?

Idolatry can be described as giving ultimate dedication (which God alone deserves) to another object of worship/dedication/affection. No one is immune from the temptation to give total dedication to idols.

2. Do you tend to blame poverty on the individual or on the community?

How does this compliment or clash with the thought from Sunday that opportunities are given by God for the poor, the widow, the orphan, etc.?

- *Read Leviticus 19:9-10 & Deuteronomy 24:19-21 for more on God’s harvest laws.*

3. What privileges do you enjoy, and what power does that bring you?

What will it look like for you to use that power for the good of others, rather than for your own gain? Try to be specific!

- **Read Philippians 2:5-11**

4. How does considering the way Jesus used his power help us neither to misuse our power, nor fail to use it?

What would this look like in our homes, our workplace, our community, our church?

- **Read Micah 6:6-9**

5. The basic point here is that God is not pleased if we elevate one aspect of what he requires of us as his people, while ignoring the rest. **Why is it so easy to excuse, or not even to notice, the elevation of just one aspect of what he requires while denying the other aspects?**