

## The Affection of the Heart and Mind

### Micah 2:1-13

Micah 1 indictment: No love of God

Micah 2 result: No love of neighbor

### Coveting: The Passion Behind the Action

- To covet = To desire earnestly = To set the heart and mind upon
- Hebrew word “*chamad*”
  - Translated as to covet, to desire, to lust after, to delight in, to take pleasure in
  - “So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be *desired* to make one wise...” Genesis 3:6

The passion leads to the action		
	Passion	Action
2:1	Devise wickedness at night	Perform wickedness in the morning
2:2	They covet	They seize, take away, oppress

### The 10<sup>th</sup> Commandment: Thou Shall Not Covet

“You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or his male servant, or his female servant, or his ox, or his donkey, or **anything that is your neighbor's.**” Exodus 20:17

- Coveting: not to be satisfied with what God has already given you
- Coveting reveals that sin is essentially a matter of the heart

### Coveting: The Root of Rotten Fruit

- Leads to ruin and destruction (Micah 2:3-5)
- Leads many to wander from the faith
  - “But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation, into a snare, into many senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evils. It is through this craving that some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pangs.” 1 Timothy 6:9-10
- Will not inherit the kingdom of God
  - “Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: neither the sexually immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor men who practice homosexuality, nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God.” 1 Corinthians 6:9-10
  - “For you may be sure of this, that everyone who is sexually immoral or impure, or who is covetous (that is, an idolater), has no inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God.” Ephesians 5:5
- Worthy of the wrath of God
  - “Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. On account of these the wrath of God is coming.” Colossians 3:5-6

## False Teaching Shaped by Desires

### 1. Do not preach judgement and wrath

“...one should not preach of such things; disgrace will not overtake us.” (2:6)

- Teach covenant promises but not covenant curses
- Teach comforts but not commandments
- Teach grace but not repentance

*“We must not make people feel bad about themselves. But then the cross becomes a charade, for then there is no wrath of God that falls upon the Son of God, who took my hell as his portion. If you do not hear of your sin, your guilt, your ruin, how can the cross of Christ become the shelter of Christ from those very curses? But the current preference is to hear of the bland benevolence of a non-existent, spineless deity.”*

*-Dale Ralph Davis*

### 2. Only focus on one aspect of God’s character

“Has the LORD grown impatient? Are these his deeds?” (2:7)

- Questioning the full character of God
- Only acknowledging His love, grace, patience while ignoring His holiness, justice, wrath
- Insistence upon always teaching the love of God, blessing of God, comfort of God only

### 3. Preach what we want to hear

“If a man should go about and utter wind and lies, saying, ‘I will preach to you of wine and strong drink,’ he would be the preacher for this people!” (2:11)

- Empty teaching (wind and lies)
- Feed your sinful desires (wine and strong drink)
- Replace the grace of God with license to do what you want

“For the time is coming when people will not endure sound teaching, but having itching ears they will accumulate for themselves **teachers to suit their own passions**, and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander off into myths.” 2 Timothy 4:3-4

“...and to the prophets, ‘Do not prophesy to us what is right; speak to us **smooth things**, prophesy **illusions...**’”  
Isaiah 30:10

### Results of this type of teaching:

- A piece of the Gospel is used as a cover up for immorality
- The Gospel call is perverted: sinners come as you are and you may stay as you are
- Oblivion until disaster comes

Walter Kaiser remarks that these wind bags *“exalt the benefits of God’s promises, but do not tell God’s people that there are conditions to receiving those benefits or that the people should walk faithfully with their Lord. This teaching was tolerated—and indeed encouraged—by the rich and powerful because it did not challenge their lifestyles.”*

### Consequences

- The Lord brings disaster (2:3)
- Loss of inheritance (2:5)
- Loss of rest (2:10)

#### The Covenant Curses:

“And the Lord will scatter you among all peoples, from one end of the earth to the other, and there you shall serve other gods of wood and stone, which neither you nor your fathers have known. And among these nations you shall find no respite, and there shall be no resting place for the sole of your foot, but the Lord will give you there a trembling heart and failing eyes and a languishing soul.” Deuteronomy 28:64-65 (See Deut. 28:15-68)

### The Lord’s Steadfast Love and Mercy

#### The Covenant Blessings:

“And when all these things come upon you, the blessing and the curse, which I have set before you, and you call them to mind among all the nations where the Lord your God has driven you, <sup>2</sup> and return to the Lord your God, you and your children, and obey his voice in all that I command you today, with all your heart and with all your soul, <sup>3</sup> then *the Lord your God will restore your fortunes and have mercy on you, and he will gather you* again from all the peoples where the Lord your God has scattered you... <sup>6</sup> And **the Lord your God will circumcise your heart** and the heart of your offspring, so that you will love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul, that you may live... <sup>8</sup> And you shall again obey the voice of the Lord and keep all his commandments that I command you today.” Deuteronomy 30:1-3, 6, 8

#### His Merciful Gathering (Micah 2:12)

**I will surely assemble all of you, O Jacob;  
I will gather the remnant of Israel;  
I will set them together  
like sheep in a fold,  
like a flock in its pasture,  
a noisy multitude of men.**

#### His Powerful Breaking (Micah 2:13)

**He who opens the breach goes up before them;  
they break through and pass the gate,  
going out by it.  
Their king passes on before them,  
the LORD at their head.**

### Jesus Christ, the Breaker, breaks through:

<b>Our hard hearts</b>	“And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh.” Ezekiel 36:26
<b>The curtain</b>	“And behold, the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom.” Matt. 27:51
<b>The grave</b>	“And the earth shook, and the rocks were split. The tombs also were opened.” Matt. 27:51-52
<b>Death</b>	“who abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel...” 2 Timothy 1:10 “We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him.” Romans 6:9
<b>Sin</b>	“For the death he died he died to sin, once for all, but the life he lives he lives to God. So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.” Romans 6:10-11
<b>The devil</b>	“...that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil...” Hebrews 2:14

## The King Passes Before Us

### He blazes the path to glory

- “And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also.” John 14:3
- “Father, I desire that they also, whom you have given me, may be with me where I am, to see my glory that you have given me because you loved me before the foundation of the world.” John 17:24

### Seated at the right hand of the Father

- “Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us.” Romans 8:34
- “The one who conquers, I will grant him to sit with me on my throne, as I also conquered and sat down with my Father on his throne.” Revelation 3:21

### We follow

- “Follow me.”
  - Matthew 4:19; 8:22; 9:9; 10:38; 16:24; 19:21, 28
  - Mark 1:17; 2:14; 8:34; 10:21
  - Luke 5:27; 9:23, 59; 18:22
  - John 1:43; 8:12; 10:27; 12:26; 13:36; 21:19, 22
- “If anyone serves me, he must follow me; and where I am, there will my servant be also.” John 12:26

## Right Coveting and True Teaching

<b>His Word</b>	“More to be desired are they than gold, even much fine gold.” Psalm 19:10
<b>His Will</b>	“I delight to do your will, O my God; your law is within my heart.” Psalm 40:8
<b>His Way</b>	“The steps of a man are established by the Lord, when he delights in his way;” Psalm 37:23
<b>His Commandments</b>	“Blessed is the man who fears the Lord, who greatly delights in his commandments!” Psalm 112:1
<b>Righteousness</b>	“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.” Matthew 5:6
<b>Him</b>	“Whom have I in heaven but you? And there is nothing on earth that I desire besides you.” Psalm 73:25

DISCUSSION

1. How can we seek to destroy the root of covetousness before it leads to fruit of destruction in our life?
2. Why must love of God be the primary foundation of our lives leading to love of neighbor? How would putting love of neighbor first distort your love of God?
3. How can we spot “smooth things” and “illusions” in the false teaching of our culture?
4. For what aspects of God’s Word do we have itching ears to hear what we want to hear?
5. How does understanding Christ as the Breaker impact how you hear His call to “Follow me”?
6. Where have you seen an increase in the righteous coveting of the things of God and desire for true teaching in your life?

## HOMEWORK

### READ

Psalm 119

Mark, highlight, or write down every verse that identifies righteous coveting (desire, longing, thirst for, delight in, etc.)

### REFLECT

1. What does the psalmist righteously covet?
2. How can you cultivate a longing for the His law, commandments, precepts, statutes?
3. How does coveting the Lord's Word put to the death earthly coveting?
4. Psalm 119:81-82 and 119:123 mention the longing of the Lord's salvation and His promise. What is His salvation? What is His promise?
5. What verse in Psalm 119 stood out to you most? Why? How has it cultivated a deeper love of God's Word in you?

### REMEMBER

"Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied." Matthew 5:6

Righteous coveting will always be satisfied. Seek His Word, His salvation, His promise, His righteousness, and His Kingdom, and He will satisfy all the desires of your heart.