

The Faithfulness of a Good Shepherd

Micah 1:1-3; 2:1-2; 2:12-13

God's Holiness is on full display in the first two Chapters of Micah! It shouts to us in the decrees of His judgement against sin, but it calls to us gently in the promise of His redemption and future reign. Through it all we begin to see a picture of His faithfulness – He keeps His promises.

- God's Judgement is Promised: A hard message delivered graciously
- Man's Corruption Exposed: A glimpse into true oppression
- God's Faithfulness Revealed: A promise for Divine Leadership



1. 2024 is predicted to be a year of change – a contentious Presidential election is on the horizon and rumors of wars are in no short supply. The Bible shows us that as believers, we must be ready to weather the temporal changes and challenges of this life. Will 2024 bring war? Lawlessness? We don't know, no one knows. So how can we be prepared to confidently stand for God in the midst of whatever may come our way? Ephesians 6:11-16 gives us the tools we need for just such a time! Micah mentions that the coming King will fight our battles for us...notice we aren't asked to fight as believers, but we are told to stand. Go to God's word, let's be prepared to stand!
2. Believers today are often caricatured as being resentful of people who are living the way they want to live. However, Micah demonstrates the type of heart we should have for the lost of this world. He isn't celebrating God's coming judgement – he doesn't take pleasure in what he knows will happen to those who are practicing the wickedness of his day. Instead, his heart is broken for them. Being a gracious person does not come naturally, but it does stem from a heart position of love for our neighbor – are you struggling to love those around you? Perhaps something we can all do when love runs cold is to refresh our hearts and minds in the fountain of God's love – go to His Word, read the stories of the Bible and search for how He demonstrated His love. Notice that God never compromises truth for love, but He always gives truth in love.
3. One bone of contention many people have as they peer into the OT writings is that they feel God was too harsh. Many folks with this perspective will bring up God's order to His people to completely wipe out the Canaanites when they entered the Promised Land. These same people will argue that God grew nicer, less vindictive, in the New Testament. Don't be fooled by that line of reasoning! God has a special purpose for the descendants of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. His plans for redemption centered on them. Think about the judgement he leveraged against His chosen people for their sin, here in Micah. He is the same yesterday, today, and tomorrow! He was protecting His ultimate plan of redemption!
4. Ephesians 4-6 is chock full of exhortations to Christians. Take time to read all three chapters this week! The climax of Paul's general exhortations is in Eph. 5:15-21. What practical applications for your spiritual life can you identify in these verses?
5. In the world today, the idea of any 'absolute truth' has been rejected. This is also true in many 'Christian' institutions. In stark contrast to this, Scripture declares its absolute authority (cf. Isa. 40:8; Mt. 5:18; Jn. 17:17; 2 Tim. 3:16-17; Heb. 4:12). Do you read your Bible every day? Are you letting it change your life?