

## The Faithfulness of a Good Shepherd

Micah 3:9-12; 4:1, 6-7; 5:1-4

Within the third chapter of the book of Micah we witness the darkness that the idols of covetous greed can have on a society – it's not a pretty picture. Yet the prophet Micah does break through that darkness with the promise of the dawn of a new Kingdom and of a coming King whose rule will be like no other before!

- The Darkness of Bad Leadership (Micah 3) – A picture of Idolatry
- The Dawn of a Future Kingdom (Micah 4) – A time of peace
- The Brilliance of the Coming King (Micah 5) – A Good Shepherd



1. Proverbs 1:7 tells us that the fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge and, in 1 Samuel 12:14-15, we find some wisdom from Samuel, at the end of his life, to the Jewish people – he pleads with them to fear the Lord and serve Him. There's a promise attached to his message, one tied to the promise of Moses – if they will do as he instructs, then both them and the king reigning over them will follow the Lord, but if they don't fear the Lord, then God's hand will be against them.
  - a. Why does God desire this for us all? Is it because He only wants our attention all the time, or does it go deeper? What Biblical principles do you find in the first few chapters of Genesis that help to answer this question?
2. In Romans 13:11-12 Paul tells us that it is the hour to awaken because salvation is nearer to us than when we believed. He says that the night is almost gone, and the day is near...then he uses the adverb "therefore" (in other words what he is about to say should follow logically because of what he just said) – "therefore let us lay aside the deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light." – What is it about knowing that we are close to the dawning of the light that should help motivate the believer who is living in a time of darkness?
  - a. I hear this and I think of running. When you are running a long race, it can become easy to get tired towards the end, your body begins to toy with your mind and you have to push against the desire to give up or slow down, but when you can see the end of the race – when you see that finish line, you forget about the weakness and you push forward. Are you keeping the end in sight? Is your hope grounded in Biblical truth? Do you know all about what God has promised He is going to do for us? If not, I'd like to suggest you look into studying His promises more closely, they will be a comfort and motivation for your heart – He has big plans and He is coming soon!