

**WALK HUMBLY
MICAH 3:1-12
August 7, 2022**

Micah 3:1-12

And I said:

**Hear, you heads of Jacob
and rulers of the house of Israel!**

Is it not for you to know justice?—

**2 you who hate the good and love the evil,
who tear the skin from off my people
and their flesh from off their bones,**

**3 who eat the flesh of my people,
and flay their skin from off them,
and break their bones in pieces
and chop them up like meat in a pot,
like flesh in a cauldron.**

**4 Then they will cry 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.**

**5 Thus says the LORD concerning the prophets
who lead my people astray,
who cry “Peace”
when they have something to eat,
but declare war against him
who puts nothing into their mouths.**

**6 Therefore it shall be night to you, without vision,
and darkness to you, without divination.
The sun shall go down on the prophets,
and the day shall be black over them;**

**7 the seers shall be disgraced,
and the diviners put to shame;**

- they shall all cover their lips,
for there is no answer from God.**
- 8 But as for me, I am filled with power,
with the Spirit of the LORD,
and with justice and might,
to declare to Jacob his transgression
and to Israel his sin.**
- 9 Hear this, you heads of the house of Jacob
and rulers of the house of Israel,
who detest justice
and make crooked all that is straight,**
- 10 who build Zion with blood
and Jerusalem with iniquity.**
- 11 Its heads give judgment for a bribe;
its priests teach for a price;
its prophets practice divination for money;
yet they lean on the LORD and say,
“Is not the LORD in the midst of us?
No disaster shall come upon us.”**
- 12 Therefore because of you
Zion shall be plowed as a field;
Jerusalem shall become a heap of ruins,
and the mountain of the house a wooded height. ¹**

In the 1986 movie “Hoosiers” the small town high school in rural Indiana hires a new basketball coach. This town lives and breathes high school basketball and some locals aren’t too fond of this new coach. In one scene a dad of one of the boys confronts the new coach and says this line: *“Look, mister, there’s two kinds of dumb: A guy that gets naked and runs out in the snow and barks at the moon, and a guy who does the same thing in my living room.”*

¹ [*The Holy Bible: English Standard Version*](#). (2016). (Mic 3:1–12). Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles.

Last week we looked at the concise and strong words from the prophet Micah to the rebellious people of God. Rebellion is birthed in the heart of every person. Micah prophesied to the people of Israel and Judah because as a people, and as individuals, they had rebelled against God and had broken their part of the covenant with him.

In addition to outright rebellion that reveals itself in the abandonment of godly teaching, moral living, and reception to righteous and holy teaching, there is another aspect of rebellion that often is manifest. You know, kind of like “There are two kinds of dumb” as the basketball dad said.

You’ve heard the question “Are you ignorant or just apathetic?” The answer is “I don’t know, and I don’t care.”

There are two kinds of dumb I guess, but there are also two kinds of ignorant.

Ignorance is a lack of knowledge.

People can be categorized as ignorant in two ways:

1. Those with lack of knowledge due to circumstances of life. (You don’t know what you don’t know.)
2. Those with knowledge base but choose to ignore it.

It is this group of the chosen ignorant whom Micah addresses. The “You know better group.”

NO JUSTICE

Micah 3:1

And I said:

**Hear, you heads of Jacob
and rulers of the house of Israel!**

Is it not for you to know justice?—²

From the days of Moses the words of God were clear. In Exodus 23 God gives his people guidelines on justice and the courts. Power and influence, due to standing, money, race, or any other delineator was not acceptable in God's economy. There is righteousness and unrighteousness. There is holiness and depravity. There is right and wrong. And for the people of God this law was clear as he stated in Exodus 23:6 "For I will not acquit the wicked."

But over time, with the dumbing down of God's word and the abandonment of the covenant with God, his people had muddied the concept of justice. And this is what Micah addresses. He asks, "Is it not for you to know justice?"

In other words, "You KNOW justice. You just choose to ignore it." It is Micah's call from God to his people – your ignorance is not because you don't know, but because you choose not to know. And that is a huge difference.

NO MERCY

The grotesque illustrations given in verses 2 and 3 are attention grabbers. They're intended to be. It is a statement of horror in that the people of God who are to be like God in showing justice and mercy are stripping away any care for others.

Do you know who Satya Nadella is? Nadella is the current CEO of Microsoft. He was hired from within the company. Yet, in his story of coming to the United States and getting the job with Microsoft, he tells of an interview with the company many years ago.

² [*The Holy Bible: English Standard Version*](#). (2016). (Mic 3:1). Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles.

He interviewed and was asked many questions. He stated that the interviewer asked him a question far removed from software engineering and the computer industry. He asked “If you were in the city and saw a bundle on the ground and then heard a baby crying. You realized this was a little baby crying wrapped up. What would you do?”

He was taken aback and wondered if this was the question that would make or break his hiring. He thought and answered “I’d call 911.”

As Nadella was leaving the meeting, the interviewer told him he was offered the job, but made a point to tell him that he missed on the baby question. He told Nadella, if you see a baby alone like this your first response should be to go pick up the baby. Why? Not because calling 911 is wrong, but because that baby needs you to pick her up and hold her because that is the first and most important need. He then told Nadella that in their corporation many have forgotten that it is the human being that is most important, not the software being developed. People are the customer. Listen to them. Think about them. Care for them.

People of God – **if** the first priority is the organization, the protection of the church brand, the image in the community, the politics in the county, the race for notoriety, the comfort of your class, or anything other than the love of God and others...then we too fall prey to the very same issues that God’s people did in Micah’s day.

NO HUMILITY

Ignoring justice and lacking mercy is often revealed in prideful living. Micah goes directly at the religious leaders who were motivated by popularity rather than godliness.

Micah 3:11

**¹¹ Its heads give judgment for a bribe;
its priests teach for a price;**

**its prophets practice divination for money;
yet they lean on the LORD and say,
“Is not the LORD in the midst of us?
No disaster shall come upon us.”³**

Corrupt political leaders will be better off than the religious ones. The warnings are dire, but I see them as amazing. How loving is our God that he warns. He defines truth. He describes judgment. He gives his people a chance to repent. Amazing love. Amazing grace.

And his call is clear for those sealed within his covenant – for you and me and those who have the privilege to be called sons and daughters of God through our surrender to Jesus Christ in the new covenant of grace, we have a hope.

Be humble. Show mercy. Live justly. And...don't be ignorant.

³ [*The Holy Bible: English Standard Version*](#). (2016). (Mic 3:11). Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles.