

Micah 2:1-6 – “Speak Out Against Evil”

- A. Edmund Burke was born in Dublin, Ireland. He served as a member of Parliament (MP) between 1766 and 1794 in the House of Commons of Great Britain. He has a famous quotation: “The only thing necessary for evil to triumph in the world is that good men do nothing.”
- B. The prophet Micah foretold a coming judgment concerning Samaria & Jerusalem (**1:1**). This was largely due to idol worship which God described as spiritual harlotry.

God calls you to speak out against evil.	I. EXAMPLES OF INIQUITY II. YOU ARE TO SPEAK OUT AGAINST EVIL
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I. EXAMPLES OF INIQUITY

A. Micah mentioned wicked people who have an evil insomnia → **v1**

1. Insomnia or the inability to sleep is one of the most common sleep problems for older men & women. According to Webmd.com, 48% of older adults experience symptoms of insomnia.¹ This is a problem associated to a large degree with the curse passed down to us from our first parents, Adam & Eve.
2. Our text gives another reason why some evil people cannot fall asleep; it is because their minds are too busy scheming iniquity while on their beds. **“When morning comes, they do it [those evil schemes], for it is in the power of their hands.” (v1).**
 - a. Their case of evil insomnia produces deeds of wickedness.
 - b. Take a look again at those mentioned in **v1**: **“for it [evil schemes] is in the power of their hands.”**
 - 1) In the Lord’s Prayer, we pray to God, **“Do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from evil” (Mat 6:13)**. God often answers that prayer by removing those opportunities & provocations to sin.
 - 2) If someone has to fight against the sins of drug/alcohol abuse or pornography, it essential for them to remove those opportunities & provocations to sin.

B. Notice the examples of iniquity these schemers put into action. → **v2**

1. This is reminiscent of the covetousness of King Ahab. His sin led to his wife Jezebel’s plotting to murder Naboth so her husband could take his vineyard. She arranged for 2 worthless men to bring false accusations saying that Naboth cursed God & the king (**1 Ki 21**).
2. Theft of all sorts is a sin that has plagued mankind ever since the fall; however, God brought this accusation in **v2** against His own covenant people who were given His holy law.

C. In **v3** tells of the beginning of God’s coming judgment upon His people. → **v3**

1. To answer what family is headed toward calamity, **Amos 3:1-2** gives us an important parallel verse: **“Hear this word which the Lord has spoken against you, sons of Israel, against the entire family which He brought up from the land of Egypt: ‘you only have I chosen among all the families of the earth; therefore I will punish you for all your iniquities.’”**
2. Back in **Micah 2:4**, we are told they will **“utter a bitter lamentation & say, ‘We are completely destroyed! He exchanges the portion of my people; how He removes it from me! To the apostate He apports our fields.’”** No land was left at all to survey (**v5**).

¹ <https://www.webmd.com/healthy-aging/insomnia-in-elderly->

- II. YOU ARE TO SPEAK OUT AGAINST EVIL → 1st part of **v6** **“Do not speak out,’ so they speak out.”**
- A. It is the schemers of iniquity who say this. They tell their neighbors, friends, coworkers, & fellow worshippers, **“Do not speak out”** against what we are doing.
1. This could be seen as threat.
 2. If they have **“power [in] their hands”** to work out evil (**v1**), they also have power to cause harm to those who speak out against their wicked deeds.
- B. There are manifold reasons why we don’t speak out against evil as we should.
1. There could be danger. Imagine speaking out against the illegal acts of the Mafia in Italy or in New York.
 2. It could cause strife. Speaking out against wrong in the workplace can also bring the wrath of your co-workers upon you, making your workplace detestable.
 3. Some are too self-absorbed to speak out. They think to themselves, “What will my classmates think or say about me if I tell my teacher how that group is bullying others in my class?”
- C. Even if there is a valid fear of great harm or even death for speaking-out about a crime, the police offer witness protection services. Other reasons for not speaking out is because of selfishness & cowardice.
- D. The remainder of **v6** gives us the ultimate reason why we must speak out against evil. **“But if they do not speak out concerning these things, reproaches will not be turned back.”**
1. The Hebrew word translated as **“reproaches”** could also be translated as disgrace, dishonor, harm, insult, or shame. All these words could be used to describe what was headed their way if they did not repent. It happened under pagan rulers.
 2. Given the context of our passage, the reproaches in question were coming from the hand of God to His disobedient, idolatrous, thieving covenant people.
 3. If God places it upon your heart to stand-up for what is right & speak out against an evil in your community, a great motivation to do so is so that God would turn back the reproach—the shame— of you doing nothing.
 - a. “The only thing necessary for evil to triumph in the world is that good men [women & children] do nothing.”
 - b. **Micah 6:8** picks up again upon this theme when the prophet said by the Holy Spirit: **“He has told you, O man, what is good; & what does the Lord require of you But to do justice, to love kindness, & to walk humbly with your God?”**
 - 1) Further study in the prophecy of Micah will guide us how to carry out this mandate.
 - 2) The first obligation for you do justice & love kindness is to at least speak out against wickedness & sin.

Review, further application, & conclusion: