

March 5th, 2023 PM- Pastor Kevin Olivier
Micah 3:5-8 – “A Warning Against False Prophets”

- A. When you and I go to church, we should long for communion with God & His people.
1. We are to desire Christian fellowship yet we should also desire to hear from God.
 2. Chapter 1 of the 2nd Helvetic Confession says, “Wherefore when this Word of God is now preached in the church by preachers lawfully called, we believe that the very Word of God is proclaimed, and received by the faithful.”
 - a. God speaks to us as we read His Word & especially when we sit under preaching.
 - b. WSC 89 says that “The Spirit of God maketh the reading, but especially the preaching, of the word, an effectual means of convincing & converting sinners, & of building them up in holiness & comfort, through faith, unto salvation.”
- B. There is a big problem when a believer comes to church to receive from God’s Word yet instead gets led astray. The Holy Spirit guided Micah to write against this matter.

God has a warning against false prophets.	I. GOD’S JUDGMENT UPON FALSE PROPHETS II. GOD’S EMPOWERING SPIRIT UPON MICAH
---	---

I. GOD’S JUDGMENT UPON FALSE PROPHETS

- A. God promised judgment on false prophets based upon how they led God’s people astray. → **v5**
1. From this verse, the false prophets gave messages based upon whether or not the people gave gifts such as food to them.
 - a. If they gave them something to chew on, they spoke a message of “**peace**”
 - b. If you did not feed them, they declared holy war against you.
 - c. Such men are reminiscent of Zoltar, the wish-making machine, in the movie “Big.”
 2. Should the message of the prophet or preacher be different depending upon what money, food, or gifts people give them?
 - a. This is the practice of giving prophecy or preaching for a bribe.
 - b. The ultimate Prophet, the Lord Jesus Christ, said “**For I did not speak on My own initiative, but the Father Himself who sent Me has given Me a commandment as to what to say & what to speak.** ⁵⁰ **I know that His commandment is eternal life; therefore the things I speak, I speak just as the Father has told Me**” (Jn 12:49-50).
 - 1) Modern preachers cannot use these words of Jesus; however, there is some carry over.
 - 2) A preacher does not speak of his own initiative; he is only to speak what he is instructed to in agreement to God’s Word.
 - c. Micah was preaching a coming judgment upon Israel & Judah, yet the false preachers were speaking “**peace**” because that is what their benefactors wanted to hear.
- B. In **vv6-7**, we read how God will judge those false prophets. → **vv6-7**
1. In modern times there is a degree on honor in preaching the Word of God; however, for those who distort the message to lead God’s people astray, they will get shame – embarrassment instead.
 2. The NT judgment for churches with false teaching & compromise is having their candlestick removed (**Rev 2:2-5**).

II. GOD'S EMPOWERING SPIRIT UPON MICAH

- A. There is a huge contrast between Micah & the false, compromising prophets who would be judged to be **“without vision”** & **“without divination”** because **“there is no answer from God”** when they pray for a message to speak.
- B. Micah's prophetic ministry is marked by God's empowering Holy Spirit resting upon him. → **v8**
“On the other hand I am filled with power— with the Spirit of the Lord— & with justice and courage to make known to Jacob his rebellious act, even to Israel his sin.”
1. This may be one of the boldest statements among the OT prophets. Micah said, unlike the false prophets, **“I am filled with power— with the Spirit of the Lord”**
 - a. He spoke what the Spirit instructed him to say.
 - b. The test of the prophet was whether or not what he prophesied came to pass.
 - 1) He correctly foretold the judgments upon Israel & Judah.
 - 2) He correctly foretold the coming Messiah would be born in Bethlehem.
 2. The Holy Spirit gave Micah supernatural **“justice & courage to make known to Jacob his rebellious act, even to Israel his sin” (v8)**.
 - a. Preaching a message of coming judgment upon a rebellious, sinful people was very dangerous. It required great courage!
 - b. OT prophets were often murdered.
 - 1) Multiple sources say that Isaiah was murdered by the hand of King Manasseh who **“shed very much innocent blood until he had filled Jerusalem from one end to another; besides his sin with which he made Judah sin, in doing evil in the sight of the Lord” (2 Ki 21:16)**.
 - 2) “According to the early church father Tertullian, the Jews stoned Jeremiah to death in ... Egypt. Jeremiah's “crime” was telling them truths they did not want to hear [*Scorpiace*, Chapter VIII].”¹ Like Micah, he told God's people of their rebellious acts.
 - c. In the NT, Stephen was stoned to death. → **Acts 7:51-60**
- C. We need the Holy Spirit to enable us to speak to others in witnessing Christ & for me to preach.
1. The Holy Spirit can give you courage.
 2. Jeremiah was told not to fear the faces of men (**Jer 1:8**). God gave him courage even to be faithful to death. We can have courage to speak to others even if they reject us because of Christ.

Review, further application, & conclusion:

¹ <https://www.gotquestions.org/how-did-Jeremiah-die.html>