

Majoring in the Minors

Week 6 Notes

7/27/25

Micah

What Does the Lord Require?

I. Intro: A Prophet from the Margins

- A. Micah: a rural prophet in Judah during a time of prosperity and corruption (8th century BC).
- B. His message: judgment and hope, with deep concern for justice, mercy, and faithfulness.

II. The Problem: Injustice and Idolatry (Micah 1–3)

- A. Micah 1:5 – the root of Israel's collapse is sin.
- B. Micah 2:1–2; 3:5–11 – corruption among leaders, exploitation of the poor, religious hypocrisy.
- C. Point: Israel was meant to reflect God's character (cf. Proverbs 14:31), but they failed.

III. The Standard: What God Actually Wants (Micah 6:1–8)

- A. Micah 6:8 becomes the core question: What does the Lord require?
 - 1. Do Justice
- B. Not vague activism or partisan politics—biblical justice.
- C. Encompasses:
 - 1. Righteous Living (Lev. 24:22; Isa. 58:7) – equal treatment for all.
 - 2. Special Concern (Prov. 31:8) – advocacy for the vulnerable (widow, orphan, immigrant).
 - 3. Generous Living (Isa. 58:6–10; Job 29:21) – generosity is justice, not just charity.
- Justice isn't about guilt or pride—it's about stewardship of God's gifts.
- D. Love Mercy (hesed – loyal, covenant love)
 - 1. Not random acts of kindness, but deep relational faithfulness.
 - 2. This isn't something we check off—it's something we love because we've received it.
- E. Walk Humbly with Your God
 - 1. Not prideful performance or self-justification.
 - 2. The gospel humbles us ("you are more sinful than you think") and lifts us ("more loved than you imagine").

IV. The Hope: A Coming King Who Gets It Right (Micah 4–5)

- A. Amid judgment, Micah gives a beautiful vision of restoration:
 - 1. Micah 4:1–4 – peace among nations
 - 2. Micah 5:2 – a King from Bethlehem
- B. Jesus is the true Shepherd-King who fulfills Micah 6:8 perfectly.
- C. He didn't just preach justice and mercy—He lived it, then died in our place.
- Where Israel failed, Jesus succeeded. Where we fail, Jesus redeems.

V. The Gospel: A God Who Pardons (Micah 7:18–20)

- A. Micah doesn't end with guilt but with grace.
- B. Micah 7:18 – “Who is a God like you?”
- C. Micah 7:19 – sins trampled underfoot, cast into the sea.
- D. Jesus' death is the ultimate act of justice and mercy.
- We aren't saved by how well we do justice, love mercy, or walk humbly—we are saved by the One who did it perfectly.

VI. Conclusion: What Does the Lord Require?

- A. Not religious performance.
- B. Not political allegiance.
- C. But hearts transformed by grace—living out:
 - 1. Justice – for the vulnerable.
 - 2. Mercy – as those forgiven.
 - 3. Humility – before our Savior.
- When we fail (and we will), we return to the God who still pardons, still loves, still calls us His own.

Application Questions:

- Where do I see injustice around me—and how might God be calling me to respond?
- Have I experienced mercy deeply enough that I love to give it away?
- Am I walking humbly, or am I trying to prove something to God or others?