

What Does the Lord Require of You? (Micah)

July 7, 2024

People rarely want to be told of judgement; they seldom want to be warned of what is going to happen if they do not change their behavior.

A prophet is one who warns of Gods impending wrath. If people refuse to hear the message, if they refuse to repent, if they remain complacent, the judgement will eventually fall.

Christ established the church to carry forth the Word of God. We are the prophets.

This is the message of the prophets. God loves you. But you cannot live life in direct contradiction to God's law without incurring God's judgement.

Micah not only speaks of the moral decay in the land, but also about the iniquity in the land as seen in oppression and injustices.

God is saying, through Micah, "You cannot go against my principles with impunity." And this is still the message today. Our world, our culture, cannot continue to walk away from the principles of God with impunity.

"For the time will come when people will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear."
2 Timothy 4:3.

This is what the people want. They want the church to tell them that what they are doing, the way they are living, their choices and their lifestyles are all right.

God is observing the contradiction between creed (words and actions) and conduct and the prophet says He will not tolerate it anymore.

When God rules in our lives, justice will be what governs our heart and righteousness what we live for. From our very lives the Word of the Lord will go forth.

God is not interested in religious practices simply for the sake of religious practices. Micah tells the people, who consider themselves "religious," that religious practices are meaningless if they do not result in a changed heart and in action.

"And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God." Micah 6:8

To act justly. To seek justice and to work for justice to be applied equally to all. Not to enrich yourself at the expense of others which was rampant throughout the land.

To love mercy. Mercy means compassion. It means to forgive and to seek the best for others.

How will the world know that I am walking humbly with God? They will know by the way we treat people. Those who walk humbly with God have a passionate concern for justice and a deep conviction to treat people with love and mercy.

"But as for me, I watch in hope for the Lord, I wait for God my Savior; my God will hear me." Micah 7:7

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