

MICAH: HOPE AMID DOOM

Lesson #6 — Micah 6:1-16 In God's Courtroom

Review

Summarize how God wants his people to face the odds stacked against us in our daily battles to carry out our Christian calling.

Introduction

The Bible frequently uses courtroom language for proceedings between God and his people. Describe some of the emotions you would be experiencing if you were put on trial before God.

A Lawsuit of Love

Micah 6:1-2

Listen to what the Lord says:

"Stand up, plead my case before the mountains;

let the hills hear what you have to say.

2 "Hear, you mountains, the Lord's accusation;

listen, you everlasting foundations of the earth.

For the Lord has a case against his people;

he is lodging a charge against Israel.

This is the courtroom scene Micah presents for us:

Plaintiff = The LORD

Prosecutor = Micah

Defendant = Israel

Witness/Jury = The Mountains and Hills

What would be the top 3 incriminating witnesses God could call against you for how you spend your time?

Micah 6:3-5

*“My people, what have I done to you?
How have I burdened you? Answer me.
4 I brought you up out of Egypt
and redeemed you from the land of
slavery.
I sent Moses to lead you,
also Aaron and Miriam.
5 My people, remember
what Balak king of Moab plotted
and what Balaam son of Beor answered.
Remember your journey from Shittim to
Gilgal,
that you may know the righteous acts of
the Lord.”*

What behaviors of a child causes his or her parents the most bewilderment? ...the most weariness?

Exhibit #1 of God’s righteous acts for his people:

Exhibit #2 of God’s righteous acts for his people:

Exhibit #3 of God’s righteous acts for his people: (Numbers 22 - 24)

Exhibit #4 of God’s righteous acts for his people: (Numbers 25:1-18)

Discover times in your personal history when God has unburdened you.

Micah 6:6-8

*With what shall I come before the Lord
and bow down before the exalted God?
Shall I come before him with burnt
offerings,
with calves a year old?
7 Will the Lord be pleased with thousands
of rams,
with ten thousand rivers of olive oil?
Shall I offer my firstborn for my
transgression,
the fruit of my body for the sin of my
soul?
8 He has shown you, O mortal, what is
good.
And what does the Lord require of you?
To act justly and to love mercy
and to walk humbly with your God.*

The defense responds. To what standard of justice were the Israelites accustomed?

Their response goes from quality to quantity, from the ridiculous to the sinfully absurd. What veiled complaint do you see behind Israel’s question?

The plaintiff responds. Which requirement is something that can be seen visibly? Which is an attitude of the heart? Which is a lifestyle?

Compare this answer to Matthew 3:1-12 and Matthew 9:12,13.

Give examples from the life of Jesus when he showed mercy and sacrifice, complete generosity toward God on multiple levels.

God's Verdict and Sentence

Micah 6:9-12

*Listen! The Lord is calling to the city—
and to fear your name is wisdom—
“Heed the rod and the One who
appointed it.*

*10 Am I still to forget your ill-gotten
treasures, you wicked house,
and the short ephah, which is accursed?*

*11 Shall I acquit someone with dishonest
scales,*

with a bag of false weights?

*12 Your rich people are violent;
your inhabitants are liars
and their tongues speak deceitfully.*

What is the basis for God's verdict against his people?

Discover which of these crimes have been mentioned before.

Agree or Disagree: The antidote to these infraction is revealed in Micah 6:8.

Micah 6:13-14

*Therefore, I have begun to destroy you,
to ruin you because of your sins.*

*14 You will eat but not be satisfied;
your stomach will still be empty.*

*You will store up but save nothing,
because what you save I will give to the
sword.*

Describe the way their corrupt practices will backfire on them?

Determine who was ultimately responsible for these devastations.

Micah 6:15-16

*15 You will plant but not harvest;
you will press olives but not use the oil,
you will crush grapes but not drink the
wine.*

*16 You have observed the statutes of
Omri*

*and all the practices of Ahab's house;
you have followed their traditions.*

*Therefore I will give you over to ruin
and your people to derision;
you will bear the scorn of the nations."*

Recall the kind of King Ahab is remembered in history.

Uncover three terrible traits of Ahab:

1 Kings 16:29-33

1 Kings 18:1-4

1 Kings 21

Respond: Capitalism is the most realistic economic system since it relies on greed for its success.

Conclusion

Uncover some of the most common mistakes we make when presenting a spiritual defense before the LORD:

Determine the best defense for any sinner.