

**Bible Study Class**  
**Clayton Presbyterian Church**  
**Lesson 4 Micah**

Today chapter 6. Next Sunday with will talk about chapter 7.

**Chapter 6 Pleading present repentance because of past redemption**

In this chapter Micah calls the people to listen to what the Lord has to say to Israel.

**Read** Micah 6:1-2 In court with the Lord.

V 1-2 Jehovah has a contention with His people, Israel. Micah pictures a court of law, with Israel "on trial" before the Lord.

**Psalm 90: 2** Before the mountains were born or you brought forth the whole world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God.

**Read** Micah 6:3-5 The Lord's complaint against His people.

V 3 As Israel steps up to the witness stand, God asks them, "What have I done to you?"

V 4 He recites their past history- how He redeemed them out of Egypt and gave them godly leaders.

V 5 Like a great lawyer in court, God shows Israel that if they feel cursed in any way, it is entirely their responsibility. Matthew Henry comments that if they remember what God has done for them and for their forefathers they should be convinced to be forever in His service.

**Read** Micah 6: 6-7 The answer of His people: "What can I do?"

In the next two verses Micah speaks representing what the nation would respond.

V 6-7 Israel calls out to God from the witness stand, and says: "Just what do You want from me?" "You ask too much, God. Nothing will satisfy You.

**Read** Micah 6: 8 The reply of the Lord: "He has shown you."

This is the key verse not only to this chapter but to the whole book of Micah. "What I require of you isn't complicated. Simply do three things." Act in a just, fair way towards others. Treat them the way you want to be treated." "Don't just show mercy, but love to show it. Give others the same measure of mercy you want to receive from Me." "Remember who I am - your God. If you keep that in mind, you will walk humbly before Me."

V 8 The condition of the heart and its relation to God are the primary considerations in the Old Testament religion.

**Read** Matthew 7:21-23

According to Jesus in the verses above, these individuals believed they were saved and called Jesus "Lord," but they did not live out their faith.

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**Read Matthew 23:25-26**

The Pharisees' emphasis on external piety does not result in purity. In order to be truly pure, they need to first purify their hearts.

**Read Romans 10:9-10**

Paul has just concluded quoting from

**Deuteronomy 30:11-14**

<sup>11</sup> Now what I am commanding you today is not too difficult for you or beyond your reach. <sup>12</sup> It is not up in heaven, so that you have to ask, "Who will ascend into heaven to get it and proclaim it to us so we may obey it?" <sup>13</sup> Nor is it beyond the sea, so that you have to ask, "Who will cross the sea to get it and proclaim it to us so we may obey it?" <sup>14</sup> No, the word is very near you; it is in your mouth and in your heart so you may obey it.

Paul has written that this is true, as well, for the "word of faith" in Christ. He writes that instead of seeking to become righteous by following the law, they should confess with their mouths that Jesus is Lord. He is the Messiah. Also, they should believe in their hearts that God raised Jesus from the dead. If they do those things, they will be saved.

**Read Micah 6:9-12** God sees the injustice and deceit of Israel.

The rest of this chapter is directed to "the man of wisdom" whoever he is, in the city, exposing the nation's sin and showing why the nation suffered.

V 9-12 God can't overlook dishonesty, violence, crookedness, lying and deceit.

**Read Micah 6:13-16** God's judgment on greedy and wicked Israel.

V13-15 According to these verses it was because of the people's sins that God was to bring ruin on them. Instead of walking in the ways of the Lord, they walked in the sinful example of wicked kings before them, and in the counsels of the ungodly. They will become a laughing stock of other nations.

V 16 They follow in the way of Omri and Ahab.

**1 Kings 16: 25-26** Omri did what was evil in the sight of the Lord; he did more evil than all who were before him. 26 For he walked in all the way of Jeroboam son of Nebat, and in the sins that he caused Israel to commit, provoking the Lord, the God of Israel, to anger by their idols. Hope remains, however, because God still claims them calling them my people.