Who is Like Our God

Honest to God **Micah 1 – 2:11**

Welcome

Think of a historical event that has happened in your lifetime. What were you doing at the time?

Worship

Heart of Worship – Matt Redman

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gljs4N7ZoD4

Word The Bible project summary can be found on this link:

Book of Micah | Guide with Key Information and Resources

Micah is prophesying 30-40 years after Amos. It appears that little has changed since then. The warnings Amos had given about the fall of the northern kingdom and their exile draws closer. Micah gives further warnings. What Amos and Micah prophesied about this kingdom occurred in his lifetime. A century after this the prophesies about Judah being taken into exile came true as well.

Read Amos 1:1-5

1. Where was Micah from? (Moresheth is in Judah). To whom was he prophesying and what was he prophesying about?
2. What do these verses reveal about God?
3. What were Israel and Judah guilty of (v5)? (Hint when the Israelites came out of Egypt they were to worship in Jerusalem – where were the northern kingdom worshipping? What was happening in Jerusalem)
(a high place was a term for pagan centres of idolatry).
4. What are the idols of our age? In what ways do they prevent us from worshipping and loving God with all our heart, soul and strength (Dt. 6:5)?

Read Micah 1:6-9

5. How does Micah respond to what the Lord is going to do? Why?
6. How should we respond to failings of the people of God?
7. Notice in v9 how the habits adopted by Samaria were spreading to the people of Judah?
8. Who/what are the main influences on your thinking and on your lifestyles? Do they bring you closer or draw you away from God? How do you know?
9. What effect do our conversations, habits and lifestyles have on other Christians? What needs to change?

Read Micah 2:1-11

v1,2 and 8,9 speak of oppression and exploitation of people – robbing them of their dignity and their rights.

10. How can we avoid doing this? Are their practical steps we can take when we observe this happening in society or in the world?
11. What challenge do v 6,7 and 11 give to those who preach and teach God's word? What could we pray for them (see Micah 3:8)

Witness

Give time for reflection and pray for each other. Pray especially for those who teach and preach at St. Mary's.

Who is Like Our God

What does God want from Me **Micah 6:1-8**

Welcome

What is the most over the top gift that you have given or received? Why was it given?

Worship

Tim Hughes: God of Justice

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b3NelRb1LY4

Word

Read Micah 6:1-8

Q. Have there been times when the Lord could ask the same questions of us that he asks the Israelites in v3?

Q. Does his counsel of them in v4,5 help us to know what to do when we are experiencing such a time?

Q. What point(s) is the author making in v6,7? You may want to revisit Amos 5:21-24 to help bring out the idea that sacrifice/worship is not sufficient if it is not accompanied by a change of heart.

Q. What three things does the Lord require of us (v8)?

Q. Consider each in turn and consider what does it mean?

(eg does to act justly mean more than ensuring that those who do wrong getting their comeuppance?

- does to love mercy go beyond showing mercy? Is attitude important?)

Q. Can you think of passages in scripture where God/Jesus has demonstrated these characteristics/attitudes?

Eg. Deut. 7:7 and 8, Php 2:5-8

Q. What would doing these things look like:

- in your family

- in the church

- in the community

Witness

Thank God for those who have and who continue to shape your faith. Those who have modelled what God requires of us.

Are there areas where we need to walk more humbly with God? Set aside time to dwell in his word or in prayer.

Ask God for opportunities show lovingkindness to someone this week.

Who is Like Our God

Swords into Ploughshares **Micah 3:12 - 4:5**

Welcome

What was your biggest dream/hope as a child? Did it motivate you? Did it come to fulfilment?

Worship

Phil Wickham - Living Hope (Lyrics)

Word

Read Micah 3:12 – 4:5

In the first three chapters God's people have had their sins exposed and warned of the consequences of their actions. But now we have words that speak of a brighter future. We move from judgement to restoration?

Q In v1-4 who is speaking?

Q Can you identify four things that the Lord is going to achieve. Can you identify what these are (David Guzic calls them four freedoms – from injustice , war, want, fear)?

Q How do these compare to the conditions that God has highlighted in the previous chapters of the book?

Q How could the people be confident that what has been revealed will come to pass?

Q How would these words be an encouragement whilst they were experiencing the consequences of their sins?

Q How hard do you find it to hold on to the promises of God, especially those that are in the future? What can we do to be more secure in them? How does this affect your attitude to the circumstances you find yourself in?

Q. Why does Micah make the declaration in v5? Can we make the same declaration? If not what holds us back?

Q. Whilst the picture painted here is of a perfectly restored world, God is building his kingdom now. Is there an injustice you need to put right, a sword that needs to become a ploughshare, a need that you can help address?

Witness

- Pray for an area of the world that is at war

- There are many appeals as we approach advent/Christmas. Are you able to respond to one. Perhaps you could give/ask for gifts that will transform lives eg. GLO, Leprosy Mission and many other run such schemes.

- Is there a relationship that needs reconciliation? Pray for wisdom, opportunity and soft hearts.

Who is Like Our God

Small Town, Great King — Micah 5:1-5a; 7:18-20

Welcome

Can you think of a time when you made a judgement about someone or something only to be pleasantly surprised? (Perhaps think of acts on Britain's Got Talent)

Worship

Chris Tomlin O Little Town of Bethlehem
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qqwe97RJ-bg

Word

Read Micah 5:1-5a

Q. v1 and 3 speak of Israel's immediate future. What was going to happen to them, their king and their country?
Q. Do you take any encouragement that God knows your situation?
Q. Why did God choose an insignificant place for the new king to be born?
Q. Should we expect him to do great things in Chipping Norton? What might that look like?
Q. What will this new king do?
Q. How will he do it?
Q. How does this king compare to the previous kings?
Q. How will his people benefit? How should they respond?

Read Micah 7:18-20

Q What characteristics of God does Micah proclaim in these verses?
Q. How would you answer Micah's question in v18?
Q. How do the things we idolise compare? What shall we do about it?
Q. Stephen Um in his commentary (Micah for You) identifies three major themes in Micah: sin, judgement and hope. How does our understanding of these affect:
a) our relationship with God?
b) our relationships with others?

Witness

- Sum up in one sentence what you have learnt from these studies in Micah and thank God for it.
- What steps do you need to take next as you seek to act justly, love mercy and walk humbly with God? Ask the Holy Spirit to help you.

You may want to finish by listening to this traditional (but updated) hymn

Steve Parsons Great God of Wonders