

“VOICES – THE MINOR PROPHETS OF THE OLD TESTAMENT”
THE MICAH MANDATE **OCTOBER 28, 2018**

In the Bible, prophets were **MESSENGERS** of God

“They brought the divine word to people who desperately needed to hear it.” Bill T. Arnold

THE ESSENCE OF THEIR MESSAGE

- A call to **REPENTANCE** = move away from sin
- A promise of **SALVATION** = made right with God

THE PROPHET MICAH

- Lived in Moresheth (usually identified as Moresheth-Gath), 25 miles south of Jerusalem
- Prophesied during the reigns of kings Jotham, Ahaz and Hezekiah (740-700 B.C.)
- His message centered on the themes of social injustice, true worship, and false security
- Micah calls his audience to “Listen!” (1:2, 3:1, 6:1)
- His message of judgment is interspersed with words of hope; judgment will eventually be replaced by the Lord’s grace, unfailing love, faithfulness, forgiveness, pardon and compassion – Israel will be restored and renewed and God will fulfill his promises to Abraham and Isaac

The MICAH MANDATE

“The LORD has told you what is good, and this is what he requires of you: to do what is right, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God.” MICAH 6:8

- Do **RIGHT** – “act justly” (NIV), “do justice” (NRSV, ESV)
- Love **MERCY** – “love kindness” (NRSV, ESV)
- Walk **HUMBLY**

1. We don’t have to guess at what God **REQUIRES**

“The LORD has told you...” is **NOTHING NEW**

“And now, Israel, what does the LORD your God require of you? He requires only that you fear the LORD your God, and live in a way that pleases him, and love him and serve him with all your

[All Scripture references from the New Living Translation unless otherwise noted]

heart and soul. And you must always obey the LORD’s commands and decrees that I am giving you today for your own good.”

DEUTERONOMY 10:12-13

“Your word is a lamp to guide my feet and a light for my path.”
PSALM 119:105

- God’s **CHARACTER** is known
- God acts in ways **CONSISTENT** with his nature
- God takes sin **SERIOUSLY**
- God desires **OBEDIENCE** over **SACRIFICE**

“Jesus spoke to the people once more and said, ‘I am the light of the world. If you follow me, you won’t have to walk in darkness, because you will have the light that leads to life.’” JOHN 8:12

2. We don’t have to guess at what’s **GOOD**

“Good” = Doing what’s **RIGHT** in God’s eyes

“Those who say they live in God should live their lives as Jesus did.” 1 JOHN 2:6

- **LOVING**
- **SERVING**
- **GIVING**

“Don’t copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God’s will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect.” ROMANS 12:2

“Follow only what is good. Remember that those who do good prove that they are God’s children, and those who do evil prove that they do not know God.” 3 JOHN 1:11

Mark Twain - “Always do right. This will gratify some people and astonish the rest.”

“**WHAT** we believe shapes our behavior;
HOW we behave demonstrates our beliefs.”