

WHEN THE PREACHERS LIE

Micah: A Quick Fly-by *The Preacher & The People*

Micah 1:1-9/ 3:4/ 4:4-12/ 5:1-4/ 6:6-8/ 7:18-19

Déjà Vu *The Problem Then & Now*

- (1) God's people had become **spiritually dull**.
Romans 1:18-32/ 1 Corinthians 2:14/ Micah 1:1-6/ 2:1-3/ 3:1-4, 9-10/ 6:9-16/ 7:1-6
- (2) Everyone claimed God's **promises** but ignored his **warnings**.
Deuteronomy 28-30/ Jeremiah 27:14-22/ 1 John 2:3-5/ Matthew 7:21-27/ Micah 2:6-7
- (3) The preachers said what the people wanted **to hear** instead of what God wanted **said**.
Micah 2:11; 3:5-7/ John 14:6

How To Discern Truth From Wishful Thinking

- (1) Always check the **message** with **all of Scripture**.
Acts 17:11/ 1 Thessalonians 5:19-22
- (2) Check the **fruit** before you buy the **tree**.
Matthew 7:15-20/ 1 Timothy 3:1-7/ Deuteronomy 18:21-22
- (3) Remember, the **majority** can be **dead wrong**.
Numbers 13-14
- (4) Never confuse God's **patience** with his **approval**.

Growth Group Homework

For the week of April 15, 2012

QUICK REVIEW

Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching *When The Preachers Lie*, was there anything that particularly caught your attention, challenged or confused you?

MY STORY

1. We heard this weekend that we need to check out the fruit before we buy the tree. Is there anyone you can think of who had a message they wanted people to accept, but that message was undermined by how they lived their life? If so, explain.

2. None of us likes to be wrong, whether we're standing alone or with the majority. Can you think of a time when you were in the majority and were wrong, or in the minority and were right?

DIGGING DEEPER

1. As we heard this weekend, spiritual dullness can still be an issue today. One of the main causes of this is that people stay spiritually immature rather than growing in their faith. Paul addresses this immaturity in 1 Corinthians 3:1-9. Read the passage and then answer the questions below.

1 Corinthians 3:1-9

Brothers, I could not address you as spiritual but as worldly--mere infants in Christ. [2] I gave you milk, not solid food, for you were not yet ready for it. Indeed, you are still not ready. [3] You are still worldly. For since there is jealousy and quarreling among you, are you not worldly? Are you not acting like mere men? [4] For when one says, "I follow Paul," and another, "I follow Apollos," are you not mere men?

[5] What, after all, is Apollos? And what is Paul? Only servants, through whom you came to believe--as the Lord has assigned to each his task. [6] I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God made it grow. [7] So neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only God, who makes things grow. [8] The man who plants and the man who waters have one purpose, and each will be rewarded according to his own labor. [9] For we are God's fellow workers; you are God's field, God's building. [NIV]

What do you think Paul means when he calls the Corinthians “mere men”?

What were the Corinthians doing that caused Paul to call them this?

What can we learn about spiritual growth and the role of teachers from this passage?

What do you think keeps people from moving on from being worldly and “mere men”?

2. Every preacher/teacher wants to speak to people with responsive hearts rather than those who are spiritually dull. David was a man with a responsive heart and he wrote about it in many of the Psalms. What do we learn about a responsive heart from the following passages?

Psalm 19:14

May the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart
be pleasing in your sight,
O Lord, my Rock and my Redeemer. [NIV]

Psalm 32:5

Then I acknowledged my sin to you
and did not cover up my iniquity.
I said, "I will confess
my transgressions to the Lord"--
and you forgave
the guilt of my sin.
Selah [NIV]

Psalm 119:33-40

Teach me, O Lord, to follow your decrees;
then I will keep them to the end.
[34] Give me understanding, and I will keep your law
and obey it with all my heart.
[35] Direct me in the path of your commands,
for there I find delight.
[36] Turn my heart toward your statutes
and not toward selfish gain.
[37] Turn my eyes away from worthless things;
preserve my life according to your word.

[38] Fulfill your promise to your servant,
 so that you may be feared.
 [39] Take away the disgrace I dread,
 for your laws are good.
 [40] How I long for your precepts!
 Preserve my life in your righteousness. [NIV]

Psalm 139:23-24

Search me, O God, and know my heart;
 test me and know my anxious thoughts.
 [24] See if there is any offensive way in me,
 and lead me in the way everlasting. [NIV]

In what ways have you seen your responsiveness to God and his word ebb and flow in your life?

3. One of the big mistakes that even preachers make is misinterpreting what the Bible says. This is why it's important to always check the message with all of Scripture. Too often people misinterpret God's promises by claiming them without realizing the context they were given in and the conditions in which they can be claimed. Read the verses below and then answer the questions in each of the columns.

Promise	Possible Misinterpretation	Fuller Context/ Condition
Jeremiah 29:11		Jeremiah 29:10-14
Philippians 4:13		Philippians 4:10-12
Matthew 18:20		Matthew 18:15-19

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TAKING IT HOME

Looking back at this week's teaching and study, what is most important for you to remember?
Explain why.

Prayer Requests:

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