

## Week 5: Micah: Forms of Faithfulness

Leaning into LENT

### Dwelling in the Word

1. Prayerfully read through Micah 6:6-8 and ask: 1) What words, phrases, or images stood out to you? 2) What does this say about what God desires to accomplish in you? 3) How could you respond to what God says in this passage?

### Beginning the Conversation

1. As you have studied the Bible, have you had any difficulty understanding the anger of God toward his people or other people groups? If so, what points in Scripture do you find the toughest? If not, how would you explain your perspective to others?
2. Are you afraid of God's justice? Think about why that might be. Do you think you don't deserve God's mercy? Do you think anyone does? Do you sometimes doubt that Jesus' sacrifice is sufficient for your sins?

### Digging Deeper

1. Read through Deuteronomy 10:12-13 and Exodus 20:1-23 (and Leviticus 26 and Deuteronomy 28 if you have time). What do you think were the main temptations for Israel (especially its leaders) to leave this covenant? What are the main temptations for modern governments to ignore moral codes? Are they the same types of temptations?
2. Read through Matthew 5:1-20 (or chapter 5 through 7 if time allows). What points of Jesus' teaching in this sermon parallel, or echo, themes that you read in the Deuteronomy and Exodus passages?
3. Micah 5:1-4 is often read during Advent time, as it anticipates a coming Messiah/Shepherd from Bethlehem. How has looking at the Minor Prophets this lenten season encouraged you or challenged you in your faith journey? Have you been able to see the hope of Jesus in the (sometimes intense) words of the Prophets?
4. The Divine Shepherd motif is strong in Micah. Revisit the Scriptures read on Sunday: Micah 2:12-13; 4:6-8; 5:2-4; and 7:14-15. Think also about Psalm 23. In what ways have you experienced the shepherding nature of Jesus Christ in your own life? In what ways do you *need* his shepherding right now?

### Living it Out

1. The ethical imperatives laid out in Micah 6:8 seem simple on the surface, but are actually more challenging than they first appear. With "acting justly, loving mercy, and walking humbly with God" in mind, spend some time in prayer and reflection regarding your own usual modes of being. Which of these three are easiest for you to align with? Which is the most difficult for you?
2. Are there incidences that come to mind where you have fallen short in these areas? Bring them to the Lord today, he is faithful and just and has offered us beautiful forgiveness in Jesus and a new start through his mercy.
3. Read Micah 7:18-20. Which line or phrase might you want to memorize or put on a note, somewhere frequently seen by you, to remind you of God's goodness, forgiveness, and faithfulness?

# Micah: Forms of Faithfulness

April 6, 2025  
Pastor Caley Tse  
Greenfield Community Church

Leaning into **LENT**

## The Minor Prophets

Event	Super Power	Prophets
Fall of Israel (722 BC)	Assyria	Hosea, Amos, <b>Micah</b>
Exile of Judah (587 BC)	Babylonia	Zephaniah, Nahum, Habakuk, Obadiah
Return (538 BC)	Persia	Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi Joel* and Jonah*

**IDOLATRY** (pointing to Assyria)

**BOTH!** (pointing to Micah)

**INJUSTICE** (pointing to Micah)

## The Contours of Micah



## The Setting of Micah

“The word of the LORD that came to **Micah** of Moresheth during the reigns of **Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah**, kings of Judah— the vision he saw concerning **Samaria and Jerusalem**” (1:1).



## THE 3 KINGS OF MICAH

2 Kings 15:3-20:21  
2 Chron. 27-32

Jotham	Ahaz	Hezekiah
+ did right in the eyes of the Lord	- did not do right in the eyes of the Lord	+ did right in the eyes of the Lord
- did not remove the high places (sacrifices/incense)	- engaged in idolatry (child sacrifice, sacrifice/incense at the high places)	+ restarted Temple service
+ rebuilt the Temple's Upper Gate	- submitted to, and bought off, Assyria with God's money	+ removed the high places (sacrifices/incense)
	- built his own altar & decommissioned the Temple	- paid off Assyria with Temple gold
		+ sought the LORD when threatened
		- showed Babylon all his treasures

SAMARIA FALLS (722 BC)

## The Message of Micah

God demands ethical living from those who claim to worship him. These "forms of faithfulness", **justice, mercy, and careful obedience**, are reflective of, and responses to, God's own "forms of faithfulness".

## The Forms of Faithfulness

<sup>6</sup> 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?  
**To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.**

<sup>7</sup> Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams, with ten thousand rivers of olive oil?  
Shall I bring burnt offerings, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?

<sup>8</sup> 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.**

(Micah 6:6-8)

## The Form: to act justly

**proper exercise of authority**  
**fairness (not favouritism)**  
**truth and honesty**  
**upholding rights**  
**integrity**



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## Their Failures to act justly

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2:1-2

3:9-11

2:6,11  
3:5

Coveting / Stealing / Abuse / Cheating / Deception

7:3

6:10-12



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## The Form: to love mercy

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compassion

generosity

solidarity

kindness

affection

loyalty



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## Their Failures to love mercy

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2:8-9

7:2

7:6

Oppression / Violence / Greed / Plotting Evil / Discord

3:2-4  
6:12

2:1



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## The Form: to walk humbly with God

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unpretentiously

thoughtfully

discreetly

modestly

carefully

## Their Failures to walk humbly with God

1:5-7

6:16

**IDOLATRY / Hubris / Classism / Corrupt Leadership**

5:12-15

2:3,8

3:5

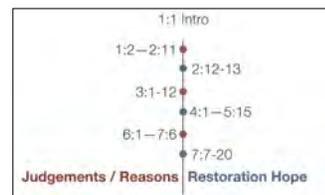
## The Message of Micah

God demands ethical living from those who claim to worship him.

These “forms of faithfulness”, **justice, mercy, and careful obedience**, are reflective of, and responses to, God’s own “forms of faithfulness”.

## God's Nature: *The Form of Faithfulness*

The form of faithfulness is God’s very nature of perfect justice and unfailing covenant love.



“ A God who is never angry in response to human sin would be a God who does not care, who lacks compassion, who is willing to turn away from the creation and ignore its pain.”

Daniel J. Simundson

“...like a parent, God holds together love and care with discipline and integrity.”

John Goldingay



**God's Torah Law:** A Form for Faithfulness

**ALREADY!**

He has told 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.

(Micah 6:8)



**God's Torah Law:** A Form for Faithfulness

And now, Israel, what does the Lord your God ask of you but to fear the Lord your God, to walk in obedience to him, to love him, to serve the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul, and to observe the Lord's commands and decrees that I am giving you today for your own good? (Deut. 10:12-13)

- also Exodus 20, Lev. 26, Deut. 28, Amos 5:14-15

**Jesus Christ:** The Ultimate Form of Faithfulness

MICAH	JOHN / REVELATION
"I will bring them together like sheep in a pen... The One who breaks open the way will go up before them..." 2:12-13	"He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out... he goes on ahead of them, and his sheep follow him..." John 10:2-4
"I will gather the lame... The Lord will rule over them in Mount Zion..." 4:6-8	"I am the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved. They will come in and go out, and find pasture." John 10:9-11
"... he will stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the Lord..." 5:2-5	"I am the good shepherd... and I lay down my life for the sheep." John 10:14-16
"Shepherd your people with your staff, the flock of your inheritance..." 7:14-15	"...the Lamb at the centre of the throne will be their shepherd..." Rev 7:17



**Jesus Christ:** The Ultimate Form of Faithfulness

The one whose teaching perfectly interpreted Torah Law.

The *only* one who has acted justly, loved mercy, and walked humbly with his God (and Father) perfectly.

The one whose death and resurrection perfectly enacted God's will and illustrated God's love nature.

The one whose return will inaugurate the fully perfected eternal kingdom through faithful judgement and love.



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## Jesus Christ: The Ultimate Form of Faithfulness

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As Son of God, and one with the Father,  
Jesus is the **Covenant giver**.

As Son on Man, and fully human,  
Jesus is also the **Covenant keeper**-  
on our behalf.



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## Invitations to . . .

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**Reflection** are Israel's failures, our failures?

**Repentance** tired of guilt or shame?

**Rebirth/Restart** ready to start over?

**Reconciliation** want to live in peace?

**Restoration** need some holistic healing?

**Resurrection** anticipating a future with Jesus?