



MICAH:

Act Justly, Love Mercy, Walk Humbly

Key Verses: *He has showed you, O man, 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. 6:8*

See also 4:1-5; 5:2; 7:18-20.

Key word: Justice

SUMMARY

Micah had a tough job. His country, Israel (700 BC), was rotten with social injustice at the highest levels of society. A powerful and wealthy elite – the ruling class – were using their political weight to confiscate the property of honest, middle-class landowners (2:1-5,6-11). It did no good to take them to court, because the judges had been bought with bribes. Even the religious leaders were part of the scam. Gifted prophets and educated priests (3:11) took money under the table and kept their mouths shut. The middle class was being reduced to poverty.

Now the rottenness was spreading throughout Israel's fabric. Lying, cheating, and violence were rampant. Promises, even between family and friends, seemed made to be broken (7:5). The poor cried, but nobody listened. Who would stop it? God tapped Micah on the shoulder, and said "Speak up!" An outsider to the capital city of Jerusalem, Micah bravely laid it on the line. He only had three messages to deliver, and he gave each of them again and again: "You're guilty!" "You'll be judged!" "Finally, you'll be restored."

At the end of it all (7:18), Micah weaves in his own name. He applies its meaning – "Who is like Yahweh?" – to the Lord's incomparable way of forgiving our sins and staying true to his promises. As God started us on our journey by hurling the Egyptians into the sea, so he will restore us on our journey by hurling all our sins into the depths of the sea.

Outline of Micah

- ch. 1-2. Israel's judgment (1:1-2:11) and salvation (2:12-13).
- ch. 3-5. Israel's judgment (3:1-12) and salvation (4:1-5:15).
- ch. 6-8. Israel's judgment (6:1-7:7) and salvation (7:8-20).

MICAH:

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- ▶ **Act justly** (= with _____),
because
we'll be nailed for anything less.
2:1-9 3:1-12 6:10-12 7:2-4

- ▶ **Love mercy** (= _____),
because
we're objects of mercy and love.
6:3-4 7:5-6, 18-20

- ▶ **Walk humbly** (= in step with _____),
because
we'll be seeing Him before long.
2:12-13 4:1-5:15 7:7-14