

**I. Self-Serving Leadership - Micah 3:1-4**

1. Micah is in God's courtroom leveling charges against God's people (**verse 1**)
  - specifically he addresses the leaders of Israel
  - civil leaders who were to uphold justice
  - “Jacob and Israel” are often used interchangeably
- Rea      A. A rhetorical question
- Rea      B. Such questions serve to “draw us into” the idea/ conversation
2. The charge - they had changed loving good for hating good (**verse 2**)
- Rea      -we might say “right and wrong” - this a bit of a moral tone... “good and evil”
3. These leaders had become bloodthirsty cannibals (**verse 3**)
  - an inhumane metaphor
  - the idea is that the vile leaders consumed the helpless citizens
- Rea      -it is very common for leadership to live “off of” their followers
4. Judgment will come on these leaders (**verse 4**)
  - they will cry out and God will not answer them
  - He will hide his face from them
  - a cry for help not a cry of repentance
  - when God does not answer that in itself is divine judgment
- Rea      **Ideas and Questions:**
1. Name and discuss “leaders” of our day
  - in our culture do we have “Pharisees?”
  - in our world do we have leaders in schools, in Washington, in civic courts?
2. Some leaders make their institution “all about them” - both in and outside of church
3. There is a real drought in our world today for “pastors” not just “preachers”

**II. Corrupt Prophets - Micah 3:5-8**

1. He turns from civic leaders to false prophets (**verse 5**)
- Rea      -the problem of bad spiritual leaders
- Rea      -false prophets prostituted their message according to whoever took care of them
- Rea      -similar to a preacher who just says what people want to hear to keep his job
2. “Wage war on them” - pronounce curses on those who did not take care of them
3. God's judgment - night without light (**verse 6**)
  - no answer or vision from God (**verse 7**)
- Rea      -“seers” would not be able to “see”
- Rea      -these false prophets would become people of “shame”
4. But - I am filled with power (**verse 8**)
  - the contrast and the claim of God, through Micah
  - God declares righteousness
- Rea      -a true prophet proclaims both the good and the bad
- Rea      **Ideas and Questions:**
1. How do you know a true prophet?
2. The problem of false prophets - or wolves in sheep's clothing is that they are “inside” the church
3. It is the work of Satan to counterfeit - a false word

- a false church
- a form of godliness but without the power

### III. Responsibility Declared - Micah 3:9-12

1. Here this! (**Verse 9**)
  - those of you who despise justice and all that is right
  - note the word “distort” the right
- Rea      -do false leaders know they do this? Or have they lost all power to tell right from wrong?
- Rea      2. Do you think you’d know if a false prophet wound up in your pulpit one day?
3. Their actions - they built Jerusalem and Zion with bloodshed (**verse 10**)
  - murder
  - they used and walked on the weak for their building projects
  - they judged for a bribe (**verse 11**)
  - they said... “nothing bad will happen”
  - tell fortunes ...”for money”
  - they change justice... and all for money
4. The conclusion - therefore Zion will be plowed like a field (**verse 12**)
  - become a heap of rubble
  - all would be laid waste - even the temple
- Rea      **Ideas and Questions:**
  1. Judgment begins at the house of the Lord
  2. We often decry the false leaders in Washington, but not all false leaders reside there
  3. Discuss how can you know a false prophet, teacher, preacher
    - how do we know the wolves in sheep’s clothing?
    - how do we know the counterfeit church?
  4. The judgmental word has all but disappeared from our pulpits
    - someone will answer for that
  5. How does a man of God (like Micah) survive against the ruling leaders of his day?