

Living in God's Rest

Micah 2:1-11

Taking it Home:

1. Reflect on the influence of culture on your personal ethics. The people in Micah's day had become careless with coveting, stealing, and lying. Is there a sin pattern that has taken root in your own heart that must be purged? Reflect on Ephesians 5:1-6 and ask the Lord to reveal any area He may want you to change.

Prayer Concerns:**A wayward heart** [1-2, 8-9]*The importance of the land:*

1. Land provided _____ and _____.
2. Land provided _____ and _____.
3. Land tied _____ to their _____.
4. Land offered _____.

*The landgrabbers coveted the land through a wayward heart.***The false prophets of culture** [6, 7, 11]

1. Teach only _____, neglecting _____.
2. Rely on _____, detaching _____.
3. Focus on _____, not _____.

Removed from the land and God's rest [3, 4, 10]**Gaining a new heart and entering a new rest** [5]

"Therefore, since the promise of entering his rest still stands, let us be careful that none of you be found to have fallen short of it." [Hebrews 4:1]

Personal Study/Growth Group Discussion Questions

Getting Started:

1. What Ponzi scheme are you most familiar with and what effect did it have on those involved?

Digging Deeper:

Read Micah 2:1-11

1. Why was God so angry with the people of Israel? What plans were being made by the rich that broke His heart?
2. In Luke 12:15 Jesus says, "Take care, and be on your guard against all covetousness." What effect did coveting have on the people of Israel? How has coveting been destructive in situations you've witnessed or in your own life?
3. What correlation was there between the land given to the Israelites and the "rest" of God?
4. What false teaching was being taught that calloused the hearts of some of the Israelites? What do false prophets say today in Christian or spiritual circles that sway people from biblical truth? In what ways have you been influenced by any of these false teachings?
5. In His justice, God made his own plans that involved judgment for Israel. Does God's justice disturb you? How was God just in planning disaster against His people? When has God been just in bringing discipline into your own life, and what has been the result? (Read Proverbs 3:11-12)
6. In verse 5, we're given a hint that some would return to the land. While this may include the literal land of Israel, it is also representative of the eternal rest of God. Who will be included in this eternal rest? What role does our obedience play, if any? What is the relationship between faith and fruit? (Read Matthew 7:15-20 and James 2:14-26)