

Ignite: What is True Religion?

Objective: By the end of the lesson the student will understand the scripture Micah 6:8.

Bible Verses:

Micah 6:6-15

Micah 1:5-7

Micah 1:9-16

Micah 3:11

Micah 3:12

Micah 5:2

Essential Question? What does Micah 6:8 mean to us?

Opening:

What do you know about the prophet Micah?

Micah was from the town of Moresheth in southern Judah. He was a contemporary of Isaiah and Hosea. He prophesied between 750 and 686 B.C. Micah's message reflects social conditions prior to the religious reforms under Hezekiah. The northern kingdom of Israel is in an apostate condition. Micah predicts the fall of Israel's capital Samaria (Micah 1:5-7). He also predicts the fall of his country Judah (Micah 1:9-16).

Micah's message goes back and forth between oracles of doom and oracles of hope. The theme is judgment and deliverance by God. God hates idolatry, injustice, rebellion, and empty ritualism. He delights in pardoning people who repent. Though the Davidic kingdom will come to an end, it will make a comeback and become greater with the Messiah.

Content:

In chapter 1-3 of Micah the prophet speaks of the roots and results of sin. His beloved capital city of Jerusalem is going to suffer due to this sin (Micah 3:12). But there is hope because in the future the Messiah will be born (Micah 5:2).

One of the most popular scriptures in the Old Testament is Micah 6:8. Let's take a closer look at what Micah was saying here.

What does he mean by acting justly?

Teacher note: Have the students respond to the question then provide some of the following to enhance what the students might come up with. The prophets emphasized proper treatment of other people. God did not want people exploiting their neighbors. One of the reasons Micah gives for Israel's coming destruction at the hands of the Assyrians is in Micah 3:11. Teacher note: Read the scripture and ask the students if they think our society has reached this level of

injustice yet. Once a nation's courts become corrupt and the religious leaders put an emphasis on money that nation is in trouble.

What does it mean to love mercy?

The word mercy in Hebrew is synonymous with "lovingkindness." God is not just about meting out justice, mercy is just as important. If we love mercy we will be busy about helping those who suffer various burdens. God's primary purpose is not to punish, but to save sinners who repent.

How do you walk humbly with God?

We have to place God above us. He is to be highly exalted while we must be lowly and humble in comparison. We can't be prideful because that is part of Satan's nature. As sinful humanity we need to always have a repentant attitude because sin is part of our nature. In order to have the right relationship with God we have got to have a humble nature.

Independent Practice:

Have the students break into small groups and discuss examples in their lives where they used justice, mercy and humility. Have them discuss ideas they can come up with on how they can operate justly, with mercy and humbly in the future.

Close/Reflect

Reflecting on our society today do the students think we are operating with more justice, mercy and humility as a country? What are the ramifications of this from God's perspective?

Sources: The Zondervan Pastor's Annual, T.T. Crabtree, (Grand Rapids: Zondervan Publishing House, 1999).

The NIV Study Bible, (Grand Rapids: Zondervan Publishing House, 1985).