

PRAY FOR PROPHETS
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September 29, 2019

Micah 3:5-8

1. I had thought about entitling this message “Distinctively Different.”
2. When Jesus told His disciples that they were the salt of the earth (Matthew 5:13) He was telling them that they would be distinctively different from whatever people or culture they might find themselves in.

NOTE: Paul said it a little differently in Philippians 2:12-16

So then, my beloved, **just as you have always obeyed**, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, **work out your salvation with fear and trembling**; 13 for it is God who is at work in you, both to will and to work for His good pleasure. 14 **Do all things without grumbling or disputing**; 15 so that you will prove yourselves to be **blameless and innocent**, children of God **above reproach** in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, **among whom you appear as lights** in the world, 16 **holding fast (retaining and paying attention to) the word of life**, so that in the day of Christ I will have reason to glory because I did not run in vain nor toil in vain.

3. Like salt genuine Christians will possess and manifest certain distinguishing properties or characteristics.
4. Jesus was implying that the distinctives embodied in the Beatitudes and the rest of the Sermon on the Mount would manifest themselves in the lives of His followers thus making His followers the salt of the earth.
5. You could say that salt without its distinctive properties is not even salt and that the same is true about people who profess to be followers of the Lord Jesus Christ.
6. It is my conviction that America’s greatest need is for God to raise up prophetic voices in every place across our land.

NOTE: This includes every true follower of Jesus Christ, and not just preachers.

7. We also need prophets who can speak on a national level and confront all aspects of our culture.
8. We need men like Micah.

I. True prophets are appointed.

- A. Notice that the word of the Lord came to Micah in the days of Jotham, Ahaz and Hezekiah, kings of Judah, which he saw concerning Samaria and Jerusalem (both the Northern and the Southern Kingdoms). Micah 1:1
- B. Micah was a contemporary of the prophets Hosea and Isaiah.
- C. Eleven years into his thirty-two year ministry the northern kingdom of Israel was conquered by Assyria (722 BC)
- D. Jesus pointed out that God would appoint prophets and that those prophets would not be well received. Matt 23:29-36

29 "Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you build the tombs of the prophets and adorn the monuments of the righteous, 30 and say, 'If we had been

living in the days of our fathers, we would not have been partners with them in shedding the blood of the prophets.' 31 "So you testify against yourselves, that you are sons of those who murdered the prophets. 32 "Fill up, then, the measure of the guilt of your fathers. 33 "You serpents, you brood of vipers, how will you escape the sentence of hell? 34 " Therefore, behold, I am sending you prophets and wise men and scribes; some of them you will kill and crucify, and some of them you will scourge in your synagogues, and persecute from city to city, 35 so that upon you may fall the guilt of all the righteous blood shed on earth, from the blood of righteous Abel to the blood of Zechariah, the son of Berechiah, whom you murdered between the temple and the altar. 36 "Truly I say to you, all these things will come upon this generation."

E. Our goal should be to know the Word of God, to live the Word of God, and to proclaim the Word of God.

F. Paul was writing to all Christians when he declared us to be ambassadors for Christ in 2 Corinthians 5:20.

II. True prophets are anointed.

A. Micah said that he was different from the self-serving prophets of his day in that he was filled with power-with the Spirit of the Lord. (Micah 3:8)

B. The prophets who were leading God's people astray were motivated by personal profit rather than a desire to faithfully represent the Lord. (Micah 3:5)

NOTE: No preacher, or no Christian for that matter, should ever allow it to become about him or her.

III. True prophets are audacious.

A. The word audacious can have a negative connotation, but in a positive sense it means to be bold, daring, and fearless.

B. Micah was audacious because he had been appointed and anointed by God.

C. He was not boasting when he said, "On the other hand (unlike the false prophets) I am filled with power-with the Spirit of the Lord- and with justice and courage **to make know to Jacob his rebellious act, even to Israel his sin.**"

D. What was true of Micah should be true of every man who is called to the gospel ministry-there must be a prophetic element to our preaching and teaching.

2 Tim 4:1-5

I solemnly charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by His appearing and His kingdom: 2 preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove (admonish), rebuke (censure, forbid), exhort (encourage, strengthen, instruct), with great patience and instruction. 3 For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but wanting to have their ears tickled, they will accumulate for themselves teachers in accordance to their own desires, 4 and will turn away their ears from the truth and will turn aside to myths. 5 But you, be sober in all things, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry.

NOTE: Most people will accept exhortation, but they will not accept reproof and rebuke, and so many well-meaning preachers try to soften the implications of the Word of God to appeal to a broader audience.

IV. True prophets are authoritative.

A. Because Micah possessed a Spirit-generated audacity he authoritatively delivered God's message without worrying about how it would be received or how it would impact him personally.

B. He boldly confronted those who were in positions of leadership and ministry.
(Micah 3:9-12)

APPLICATION

1. Not everyone is called to be a Micah, but every follower of the Lord Jesus Christ is to be distinctively different-the salt of the earth.
2. We might even take Micah's words in chapter 3:8 and turn them into a personal prayer.
3. We could pray, "Lord, I want to be filled with power-with Your Spirit-and with justice and courage to faithfully and fearlessly represent you within my sphere of influence."
4. Without appointed, anointed, audacious, and authoritative prophets and people there is no hope for genuine revival in our land and no hope for America as we know it.