

A Closing Window
Micah 3:1-2
Bethany Assembly of God
11.6.2024

Central Proposition: We should have a prophetic witness in the power of the Spirit.

Introduction

We see from the Scripture that God uses people, including rulers, even when they aren't trying to be used by God. He used Pharaoh to demonstrate His glory when He brought the 10 plagues on Egypt and freed Israel from slavery. He used Sennacherib the Assyrian and Nebuchadnezzar the Babylonian to judge the wickedness of His people. He used Cyrus, the king of Persia, to give the Jews grace and allow them to return from exile and rebuild the walls of Jerusalem and the Temple. He used the Jewish priests and Roman authorities to accomplish His purpose of redemption through His Son's death. These were not good men, but God used them for His purposes. I have a conviction that we have a window of opportunity in our culture, but it will close quickly. It is our responsibility to raise our prophetic voice and to be witnesses for Jesus no matter what. Like Micah, you are called to raise a prophetic voice in the power of the Spirit. You are called to use your voice, your influence, your will, your passion, your gifts to point people to their need for Jesus. The window is open, so we must engage. What do we need to do, to have that prophetic voice?

1. We must practice justice ourselves. See 1 Timothy 6:17-19.

We cannot raise a voice against injustice if we aren't practicing justice. We must act with integrity and moral strength in our private lives. In our private dealings and our business practices, we must be just and fair. Micah spoke up against the judges, rulers, prophets, and priests because they were driven by greed rather than their concern for commitment to God's law and care for His people. And this is still a powerful motivator today. The remedy is to act with biblical justice, justice that sees your circumstances not as a result of your own strength but of God's grace, and to be generous, rich in good works, and ready to share.

2. We must speak up when we see injustice. See Matthew 24:12; Revelation 13:16-17.

This is exactly what God called Micah to do, and it's what He calls all of us to do as well. We must speak up for the weak. Much like the greedy leaders of Micah's time, we also have greedy, ungodly leadership that leads to destruction for the weak. We have a closing window of opportunity in our culture and we need to be urgent about raising a prophetic voice and bold action for the kingdom of God, addressing injustice with the Gospel.

3. We must beware false assurances. See Romans 2:4-5.

Micah, like many of the faithful prophets in the Old Testament, found that he was competing with other prophets giving a different message, a false one. Church, do not underestimate this danger today. Beware of those who teach cultural ideas with Christian labels. Beware when you are no longer willing to be convicted by God's Word but you're just looking for people who agree with what you already think. Beware when you value being right over loving others. Beware when you treat love as a passive emotion rather than a character trait of God. All of these are warning signs that you have a false assurance and not a true assurance founded on Christ.

Conclusion

About a hundred years after Micah raised his prophetic voice, Jeremiah was raising his. He had been arrested and was about to be put to death, but then, some officials remembered what happened when Micah raised his prophetic voice and spoke up on Jeremiah's behalf. You see, what the book of Micah doesn't tell you itself is that, when Micah spoke up, King Hezekiah actually listened. He repented and a revival began among God's people to such an extent that God spared them. In other words, the prophetic window remained open in part because Micah did what the Lord called him to do. Who knows what God will do when we raise our prophetic voice in witness to Him.