

Is there anything that would turn you off and lead you toward a different teacher, even though it might be biblical?

Micah lived in a threatening environment (read 7:1-6 if you want to see how bad it really was). What was his secret to avoid panic? (Micah 7:7)

Take each one of those phrases. Write them down and think about what it means to put those three principles into practice.

## When We Don't Take God Seriously

With what shall I come before the LORD and bow down before the exalted God? Shall I come before him with burnt offerings, with calves a year old? Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams, with ten thousand rivers of olive oil? Shall I offer my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul? *He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the LORD require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.* Micah 6:6-8 (NIV)

### CAUGHT BETWEEN JUSTICE AND MERCY

Why don't people take God seriously?

Sometimes they don't believe that the **good** is as **good as it is portrayed**.

Sometimes they don't believe that the **bad** is as **bad as it is portrayed**.

Sometimes their **filters just won't let them hear**.

The role of the prophet is to **put things in God's perspective**.

Bad leaders; rich, powerful, or religious abuse their power because **they can**.

Belittling God's justice or his mercy will always lead to a skewed perspective of God. (Micah 1:2-3; Micah 7:18-19)

False preachers had the money and the crowds, but Micah had the power and the Spirit of God. (Micah 3:8)

As bad as it gets, God always has a future for his people; a prophecy for the ages: Micah 5:2.

A prophetic perspective: What God really required of them (and us)

To act justly

To love mercy

To walk humbly with your God

As bad as it got, Micah's knew his center:

I watch in hope for the Lord;

I wait for God my Savior;

My God will hear me.

### Small Group Homework

For the week of September 20, 2015

Welcome back from summer. As you look back over the past few months, were you soaring, running, walking, or crawling? In a sentence or two, explain your answer.

On Sunday Jim talked about false prophets that Micah described. Read Micah 2:6-7, 2:11; 3:5. What were the motives they preached what people wanted to hear?

Read 2 Timothy 4:3-5. What are the motives that people will seek out that kind of teacher?

Think hard on this one. What are the things would you like to hear that might tend to lead you to a teacher who is off-base?