

## Predicting the Past: Part 5

### Weak Politics and the Shepherd King: Micah 5

*As Israel faces exile, the problem is that the current ruler is embarrassingly weak and inadequate. The only solution is a new king – Yahweh’s king, who comes in the strength, majesty and greatness of Yahweh.*

In order to accept Yahweh as our king, we must be willing to destroy the idols in our lives. How can we identify the idols in our lives? Ask:

1. What do you \_\_\_\_\_ about?
2. Where do you spend your \_\_\_\_\_?
3. What are your greatest \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_?
4. What causes uncontrolled \_\_\_\_\_?

***Anything and everything that you look to for your ultimate well-being is embarrassingly weak and inadequate in comparison to King Jesus.***

#### **Application:**

***The plan to steward God’s care for humanity is the church. The church is a group of people who experience and share the holistic provision and protection of Jesus.***

Relationship principle:

Don’t miss the opportunity to be a blessing, while waiting for others to bless you.

Will you join the labour force of love?

## *Life Group Questions*

### ***This week, before you go to your Life Group:***

Read Micah 5. Write down your observations and questions. Write down any verses or passages that don’t make sense and bring them to the group

### ***Life Group Discussion Questions:***

Read Micah 5:1-6 together. Compare and contrast the descriptions of the current leadership with the anticipated ‘shepherd.’ What are the most striking differences? What about the shepherd gives you hope and a sense of excitement?

In Micah 5:10-15 there is a description of things that the Israelites depended on instead of God. List them and describe what they are. What are some of the common idols that exist in our culture?

Review the four ways to identify idols in our lives, found in the sermon notes. As you examine yourself using these questions, what do you think are the things in your life that you are tempted to treat as a false god?

Jesus claims to be the Shepherd King that God’s people were waiting for. In Matthew 9, Jesus is moved to compassion because he sees helpless and harassed people. Skim this chapter and list the ways in which he provides and protects people. What does this say about what it means for Jesus to be king and how he shepherds his people?

Jesus quickly enlists his disciples to join him labouring in the harvest (caring for people) in Matthew 9:35-38. What do you think he’s asking his disciples to do? How can you labour in the harvest this year at home, at church and in the community?