

Predicting the Past: Part 3

An Inconvenient Truth: Micah 3

"It is difficult to get a man to understand something, when his salary depends on his not understanding it." — Upton Sinclair

There's something inside many of us that doesn't want to hear or speak truth that threatens our comfortable existence. When the truth is inconvenient, it's easier to find someone who will tell us what we want to hear, then to accept what is plain.

Micah describes False religion that:

- A) Absolves "____" and ignores "_____."**
- B) Confirms my _____ rather than _____ my corruption.**
- C) Fails**

Application:

Our gauge of spiritual maturity needs to be consistent with Jesus. Each tree is known by its fruit.

Fruit Inspection (from Matthew 23):

1. Do I study without application? (verse 3)
2. Do my religious views burden others without helping? (verse 4)
3. Am I more concerned about my reputation than my integrity? (verse 5)
4. Do I exclude people or welcome them? (verse 13)
5. Have I set up arbitrary rules and looked for loopholes? (verses 16-22)
6. Do my religious practices aid those in need? (verse 23)
7. Do I focus on outward conformity instead of inward transformation? (verse 25-26)

Life Group Questions

This week, before you go to your Life Group:

Read Micah 3 and Matthew 23. Write down your observations and questions. What do you think the major similarities are between these 2 passages? Write down any verses or passages that don't make sense and bring them to the group

Life Group Discussion Questions:

Can you think of a time when you were told something about yourself something that you didn't want to hear? How did it make you feel (angry, sad, frustrated, embarrassed)? Why do you think so many of us struggle with being criticized or having to face our weaknesses/failures?

Read Micah 3. What are the main problems that Micah is pointing out to the religious and social leaders? How does he describe their response to being told the truth about their actions? What does Micah say the result of their actions will be?

In Matthew 23, Jesus speaks out against the religious leaders of his day as well. List as many of Jesus' criticisms as you can, in your own words.

Which of these critiques do you think might apply to you? Are there truths in this passage that you would say you need to accept in your own heart? How does it make you feel when you are confronted with spiritual issues that need attention in your own life?

Are there verses/passages that you can share with one another that bring hope for all of us who are imperfect? How do you think we can allow God to transform us and grow us in our daily lives as we think about the things that convict us? Share one way you can apply what you've learned going forward.