

## The Fruit of Bad Hearts (in 4 questions) - Micah 2:6-11

### FOR CHILDREN:

True or false? "Autumn" is an older term than "fall." The full moon in September is called the "Corn Moon." The original name of candy corn was "chicken feed." In the US, Indiana grows the most pumpkins. Come up with some of your own with you family, then read Micah 3:11-12. How do we know what the truth is? In Micah's day, the Israelites thought the truth was that Jerusalem could never be destroyed, but they didn't check if that was really true or not in God's Word. The truth was that because they had left God in their hearts, they no longer would have His protection. We can't make up our own truth, only God can define truth, and that is what we find in our Bibles!

### FOR THE GROWING CHRISTIAN:

Read Micah 3:5-8. Notice the contrast between the lifestyle of the false prophets and Micah. Instead of speaking the truth of God, the false prophets tell the people whatever they want to hear. In exchange for their payment (*"something to bite with their teeth," i.e. provision of food*), they preach a message that keeps their audience happy (*and continuing to pay them*). But God is not with them, and their future - after this temporary good fortune - is bleak. Micah on the other hand doesn't alter God's message to please his audience. He's going to tell them the full truth. And because his heart is sold out to God, he experiences a boldness and power the false prophets wish they had. To live completely sold out to God, means a confidence and joy that only our relationship with God can give! Prayerfully consider how you might live out this kind of courageous life. Read also 1 Timothy 3:14-16; Hebrews 13:5-6.

### FOR THE MATURE CHRISTIAN:

Read Micah 1:10-15. It's no surprise that God's judgment speech is cleverly composed. Many of the Israelite cities contain wordplay relating to God's discipline to come. *Beth-le-aphrah* means "house of dust" - they are to mourn for their sin in the dust. *Shaphir* means "beautiful," but their sin brings shame like nakedness. The people of *Zaanan*, "one who goes out to battle," will cower at the Babylonian conquest. *Mareshah*, which means "possessor," will find themselves the possession of the enemy nation. But the cities that bookend the speech are Gath - bringing to mind David's mourning at the death of Saul and Jonathan (2 Sam. 1:20) - and Adullam - where David fled earlier in life to escape Saul (1 Sam. 22:1). So, this speech placed at the beginning of Micah has the reader beginning to question: What of God's plan to bring the Messiah through the line of David? Is it in jeopardy? Of course, we know the answer today. God's plan of salvation succeeded in both David's descendant and David's Lord - Jesus! With the evidence of God's brilliant sovereignty on display throughout history, may we be ready to trust and follow Him with courage and zeal like Micah!

### Weekly Memory Verse:

"...I am filled with power -  
With the Spirit of the Lord -  
And with justice and  
courage..."

Micah 3:8

### Weekly Affirmation:

**I WILL BE A  
PILLAR OF GOD'S  
TRUTH TODAY!**

## SEPTEMBER 2025 GROWTH GOALS

- ☐ Read the Book of Micah
- ☐ Memorize one of the weekly memory verses.
- ☐ Watch the Bible Project video on *Micah* (available on the website).
- ☐ Prayerfully consider an intentional act of kindness you can partake in each week.