

A Leader's True Source of Power

*"But as for me, I am filled with power, with the Spirit of the Lord,
and with justice and might..." Micah 3:8a*

- I. The Good Shepherd - Micah 2:12-13
 - A. The purpose of the Promised Land: A Safe Place to enjoy God
--The Resting Place
 - B. This backdrop defines the purpose and strength of a leader
- II. The bad shepherds of Israel - Micah 3:1-3
 - A. The godly leader's privilege: Intimacy with the Good Shepherd
 - B. Justice is an essential aspect of God's nature: Ezekiel 34:16
 - C. Three ways to look at justice: The Parable of the Cookies
 - 1. Equitable Justice
 - 2. Retribution Justice
 - 3. Biblical justice
 - B. Justice is the foundation for a safe place to live
--Psalm 89:14; Proverbs 29:4
 - C. Injustice: The abuse of power
 - B. Injustice confuses evil for good - Micah 3:2a
 - D. Eating instead of feeding the sheep - Micah 2b - 3
 - E. Our application: Do we value every human being? (James 1:27)
 - D. Paid professionals--not pastors - Micah 3:5, 11
- III. God's silence will answer the evil leaders - Micah 3:
 - A. A leader has a privileged connection to God and His people
 - B. The judgment concerns this line of communication
 - C. God will "hide His face from them"
--Psalm 27:4, 9; Numbers 6:24-26

- D. This silence is described as "night" or "darkness"
 - E. We are only moons reflecting God's glory.
--Sin eclipses the Father's face.
 - F. The Father turned from Jesus on the cross, so we could see His face
- IV. A leader's true source of power is the Spirit of God - Micah 3:8
- A. The true prophet's sustenance: God's favor and presence.
 - B. Micah does the work of a shepherd: He is filled with justice
 - C. Micah was strengthened by doing God's will - John 4:34
 - D. Micah feeds on God's Word so he can speak it to others
- V. The impressive facade of false leadership will collapse - Micah 3:9-10
- A. Micah used his own life to witness against them
 - B. In God's kingdom, the means must always equal the end result.
 - C. The entire leadership had been bought off: Micah 3:11
 - D. They hid behind religious history and titles - Micah 3:11b
- VI. A sobering accountability: "Because of you..." - Micah 3:12
- A. God must start completely over with his people.
 - B. God placed all responsibility for the devastation on the leaders
 - C. Micah was able to grow strong in the wasteland.
--Psalm 106:14
 - D. We CAN flourish in the desert if we rest in God's arms!