Micah 2:1-5

MAY 4, 2020

The Blessing of God's Judgment

- 1. No one and nothing is unimportant.
- 2. There is Someone who can actually make a completely true judgment.
- 3. Through judgment, God restores order.
- 4. It absolves of the responsibility.
- 5. It offers an incentive for holy living.
- 6. It encourages us to watch and pray.
- 7. It is the way we understand God's mercy.

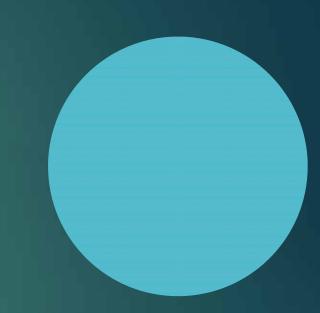
Land in the Bible

- 1. A gift: received with thanksgiving.
- 2. A responsibility: to be stewarded wisely.
- 3. Part of being human: to be respected.
- 4. Reconfigured and restored: waiting.

Micah 2:1-5 repeated/key words

Planning (hashab)

- Field (sadeh)
- Inheritance (nahalah)
- Evil (ra), disaster (ra'ah)



ESV	NLT
Woe to those who	What sorrow awaits you
devise wickedness	who lie awake at
and work evil on their	night,
beds!	thinking up evil plans.
When the morning	You rise at dawn and
dawns, they perform	hurry to carry them out,
it,	simply because you
because it is in the	have
power of their	the power to do so.
hand.	

Woe! Plotters of injustice and planners of evil upon their beds. At break of day they carry it out, For it is in the power of their hand

Literal Hebrew

ESV They covet fields and seize them, and houses, and take them away; they oppress a man and his house, a man and his inheritance.

NLT When you want a piece of land, you find a way to seize it. When you want someone's house, you take it by fraud and violence. You cheat a man of his property, stealing his family's inheritance.

Literal Hebrew

They covet fields and seize them, And they take houses; You exploit a man and his house, A man and his inheritance.

ESV	NLT	Literal Hebrew
Therefore thus says the	But this is what the	Therefore, thus says
LORD:	LORD says:	the LORD:
behold, against this	"I will reward your evil	Behold, (I am)
family	with evil;	planning disaster upon
I am devising disaster,	you won't be able to	this clan,
from which you	pull your neck out of	From which you will
cannot remove your	the noose.	not remove your
necks,	You will no longer	necks
and you shall not walk	walk around proudly,	And you will not walk proudly
haughtily,	for it will be a terrible	For it is a time of
for it will be a time of	time."	disaster.
disaster.		

ESV	NLT	Literal Hebrew
In that day they shall take	In that day your enemies	On that day, they will take
up a taunt song against	will make fun of you	up against you a mocking
you and moan bitterly,	by singing this song of	song
and say, "We are utterly	despair about you:	And lament a lamentation;
ruined;	"We are finished,	They will say, "We are
he changes the portion of	completely ruined!	completely destroyed."
my people;	God has confiscated our	The inheritance of my
how he removes it from		people has changed, How (they) removed what
me!	taking it from us.	is mine.
To an apostate he allots our	He has given our fields	To the faithless he allots our
fields."	to those who betrough	fields.
	us."	

ESV	NLT	Literal Hebrew
Therefore you will have none to cast the line by lot in the assembly of the LORD.	Others will set your boundaries then, and the LORD's people will have no say in how the land is divided.	Therefore you will not have Anyone to cast the lot In the assembly of the LORD.

Small group discussion

- Why do you think that this failure of "land" was the first sin that Micah addressed?
- Do you see any similarities between the land-grabbing of ancient Israel and our current situation in Hong Kong?
- 3. In his classic *The Two Cities*, Augustine wrote, "Two cities have been formed by two loves; the earthly by the love of self, even to the contempt of God; the heavenly by the love of God, even to the contempt of self." How does this apply to the Micah text and to our own lives?