HELP US LORD TO BE SO CONNECTED TO YOU THAT WE MIGHT BECOME THE SERVANTS OF OTHERS.

TAKE OUR LIPS AND SPEAK THROUGH THEM,
OUR MINDS AND THINK THROUGH THEM,
AND TAKE OUR HEARTS, AND SET THEM ON FIRE.

God will sometimes bring us through storms not to defeat or tempt us…

But to reveal who our Lord is….

This my friends is the spirit of that rarely preached on prophet..

The most minor of the minor prophets.
The Prophet named: Micah.

You heard from his book earlier this evening.

How many sermons have you ever heard on the Prophet Micah…

And

Let me rewind…
How many Micah’s do you even know?

I know one…Micah Booman…son of David Booman who can grow up knowing his name means:

WHO IS LIKE YAHWEH?

Micah has a whopping 7 chapters, and can be read from top to bottom in 33 minutes…

Who was this prophet?

Micah lived about 700 years before Jesus and as a prophet was a mouthpiece of God. He lived about 20 miles southwest of Jerusalem and comes from a small village.

The Book of Micah has ‘3’ essential points:

1. To tell of the sins of Judah and Israel
2. To predict their punishment
3. And..and finally to announce hope for the future
   But you know, throughout his little 7 chapter 33 minute book..

Micah’s focus is on the beautiful people..

You know those with homes in

- Palm Beach
- Nantucket
- and Acapulco…

He would have been going after the rich moms and dads buying their way into the college of their children’s choice.

And others like…

1. The rich getting richer through extortion and violence
2. Merchants with scales weighted in their favor
3. Judges selling judgment for a bribe

4. Priests who say whatever the people will pay to hear

5. Others who will do anything in their power to stay in power and the lifestyle they grew accustomed too.
   - The fancy pance people
   - The Hoi Poloi
   - The big Muckity Mucks as Peter Moore would say..

But with Micah, there is a twist…Micah also goes after the victims of those crimes...

**The Victims? Yes, the Victims..!**

You see, many of the Jewish Victims of those crimes, turned to idols to deal with their victimhood.

When faced with trouble, they went where everyone else went…not to God, but to idols.

Offering sacrifice to the Baals, along with Asherah poles to be get out of the problem..

**God will sometimes bring us through storms not to defeat or tempt us…**

**But to reveal who our Lord is….**

You can tell a lot about a person by knowing where they go to get solace when they’re in storms.

To find solace, we too have our own idols like:

- Alcohol
- Anger
- Drugs
- Horoscopes
- Etc..

Because the Jews sought solace in their idols..

God is angry…so angry He says to the victims and perpetrators:

Invaders will dismantle Israel, Judah and exile the citizens…

But the nation didn’t listen…many of the Jews in Micah’s days were counting on the invincibility of the Holy City Jerusalem
the invincibility on the city God had chosen to be his love…

and many of the Jews therefore thought they could do as they pleased they were the Holy City..

Micah would have none of it.

IN fact, he prophecies to break that worldview.

He preaches that God cares more about people than real estate..

Not only is it possible for Jerusalem to be destroyed, Micah warns…

IT WILL BE DESTROYED! Both Jerusalem in the South of Judah and Samaria to the North in Israel.

Yet, to the third purpose of his book, Micah does not want to leave his people comfortless.

So, Micah weaves in a beautiful cord of hope in chapter 4 that you heard tonight….

Listen to his hope for the Jews and for the world:

*The mountain of the Lord’s temple will be established*  
*as the highest of the mountains;*

*it will be exalted above the hills,*  
*and peoples will stream to it.*

*2 Many nations will come and say,*  
*“Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord,*  
*to the temple of the God of Jacob.*  
*He will teach us his ways--so that we may walk in his paths.”*

*The law will go out from Zion,*  
*the word of the Lord from Jerusalem.*

*3 He will judge between many peoples*  
*and will settle disputes for strong nations far and wide.*
They will beat their swords into plowshares  
and their spears into pruning hooks.

Let me stop there.

Swords and spears represent war while plowshares and pruning hooks represent peace…

Meaning when the instruments of war are no longer needed, nations won’t take up sword against nations….

But how? How will this happen?

It leads to the apex of Micah..9 verses later we get to chapter 5..

One of the most famous lines of all time in the Old Testament!

Micah 5:2…  
But you, Bethlehem though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel...

DING DING DING DING!

Micah 5:2..Jesus!  
If you love number puzzles, you find Micah 5:2, mirrored in Matthew 2:5…

“When King Herod heard about Jesus, he and all of Jerusalem were disturbed…and so Herod gathers everyone together and says…where is the Messiah to be born?”

“In Bethlehem of Judea for so it is written in the Prophet Micah…”

You Bethlehem in the land of Judah are by no means least among the rulers of Judah…for out of you will come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel.”

Jesus is the one who will transform our weapons into blessings!

In other words, the rescue for the Jews and all humanity will not come from a king living in the capital of Samaria or Jerusalem! The problems we face then and now won’t be solved by:

- Governments  
- Kings  
- Money..  
- Alcohol  
- Horoscopes  
- Or even Lawyers!
But through…Jesus Christ, the one who will stand and shepherd the flock in the strength of God…He, Jesus will be our peace—as we read in Chapter 5:4.

Yes, Micah predicts that Jesus will be born
in the same little village of Israel’s most beloved king…DAVID.

--A village 6 miles south of
Jerusalem…Bethlehem.

Even…JEWISH Scholars in ancient times said these verses point to the Messiah whom God promised to send…

This by the way is the prophecy that helped the Wiseman know that Jesus of Bethlehem was the Messiah!!!!!!

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My friends, it tells us:

Jesus is our standard of Justice…and the one we go to when we ourselves are victims..

We turn not to the idols of our day, but to Jesus Christ who alone will avenge justice…

Who alone will judge the earth.

So…YES…

God will sometimes bring us through storms not to defeat or tempt us…

But to reveal who our Lord is….

Revealing that Jesus Christ is the Lord of our storms, the Lord of our crises, the Lord of our cries.

In this Advent when so many emotions hit, when we reflect on those we love but have died, or are sick…we say Lord…

Remove the swords and pruning hooks..

We’re going to you for healing, we’re going to you to be transformed….we’re going to you in our storms.

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Thank God for that minor prophet Micah…
Micah Booman, you have a great name, the name pointing to the greatest name Jesus.

*God will sometimes bring us through storms not to defeat or tempt us…*

*But to reveal that Jesus, the King of Kings…*

*Is*  
*Our*  
*Lord.*  
*Amen..*