

Sermon Discussion Guide

Taking Our Hearts to Court

Micah 6

The Lord defends his actions (1-5)

Isa 43:24; Mal 2:17; Num 22:1-24:19; Josh 3:1; 4:19

- What questions does the Lord raise that show the hearts of his people? (3)
- How does he answer their implicit accusations? (4-5)
- What does he call them to do regarding his actions? (5)
- How does this section help us when we are questioning God's ways?

The Lord defends his requirement (6-8)

Isa 1:11-17; Amos 5:21-24; Ps 40:6-8; 50:7-11; 51:16-17; Hos 6:1-6; Matt 5:24; 1 Jn 4:19

- What are the people wondering in verse 6?
- What is wrong with their answers? (6b-7)
- What does the Lord really require of his people? (8)
- How are we tempted to think about God the way the Israelites did?
- What is the remedy to this?

The Lord defends his judgment (9-16)

Deut 28; 1 Ki 16:16-34; Jer 19:8; 29:18; 51:37; 2 Ch 29:8; Gal 6:7

- What types of evil does the Lord condemn in this section? (9-12)
- What is judgment going to be? (13-16)
- How can this section help us when we are tempted to pursue blessing/satisfaction apart from God?

Conclusion

- How does looking to Jesus help us answer all the questions of our hearts?
(see back for review)

- The answer to the questions of our hearts is found in the person of Jesus
- **What are you doing? Are you really for me?**
 - See his broken body, his blood poured out
 - See him bearing the burdens we could never bear – the weight of our sin
 - The grievous blow that we deserved fell upon Christ
 - He bore the scorn of his people, so we can be freed from our sin and shame
 - Now we can know with certainty that God is for us
 - There is therefore now no condemnation, if God is for us, who can be against us?
- **What can I do to please you?**
 - Look at Jesus, the one who perfectly pleased his Father in everything he did
 - And now, by faith in his work, God is pleased with you already
 - Now the call to you is love this lovingkindness
 - And walk in it
 - See how Jesus loved, how he did justice, laying down his life for his own
 - And now know that now we can walk with him, as he is in us now by his Spirit, enabling us to do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with him
- **What about my heart, which longs to be satisfied by other things?**
 - See your God, who is so committed to your blessing, your eternal satisfaction that he would give his only son.
 - Look at Jesus, the one who was made desolate, so that we could be blessed
 - The one who was rich became poor, so that we could receive the greatest treasure
 - He hungered and thirsted so that we could be satisfied
 - He was tread upon
 - so we could receive the oil of the Spirit's anointing
 - so we could forever drink of the wine of the New Covenant
 - Repent of trying to gain blessing your own way, and look afresh to the one who truly satisfies
- **You see, when our hearts are taken to court we find something very unexpected**
 - We expect condemnation, burdens, judgment for how we fall short
- **But what we find is Jesus**
 - He shows us what God has done
 - He gives us what is required
 - And life in him is what will truly satisfy