

Sermon: Lion AND Lamb: The Prophetic Call
Date: Sunday July 2, 2017
Text: Micah 6:6-8

Primary Text:

Micah 6:6–8 (ESV)

- ⁶ “With what shall I come before the Lord,
and bow myself before God on high?
Shall I come before him with burnt offerings,
with calves a year old?
⁷ Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams,
with ten thousands of rivers of oil?
Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression,
the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?”
⁸ He has told you, O man, what is good;
and **what does the Lord require of you**
but to do justice, and to love kindness,
and to walk humbly with your God?

OT Prophetic Call- Micah 6:8

This question (what does the Lord require) is a prophetic call to restore justice and mercy; first to God’s people, and as a result, the world around her.

Prophecy:

1. Prophecy looks forward, it is God’s Word determining what must be (not negotiable).
2. It penetrates the present to reveal the future.
3. Prophecy is the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy (ILL: it’s engine)

Series Reflections: Lion and Lamb- balancing justice and mercy.

- God’s Throne: the “lion is still roaring and the lamb is still gentle”
 - Scripture depicts Jesus as both The Lion AND the Lamb
- The Gospel of Jesus Christ is not dead or dying (the religious man-made methods may be)
- Because Jesus is alive... True justice and perfect mercy still exists

Pastoral Reflections:

Is the Church losing ground or diminishing amidst the chaos?

“If Christians could survive Nero, if they could survive Lenin and Hitler, then they can survive the materialist present”

Rodriguez, Samuel. The Lamb's Agenda: Why Jesus Is Calling You to a Life of Righteousness and Justice (p. xxi). Thomas Nelson. Kindle Edition.

- I am convinced that God is not done with America...her calling, or her mission
- But more importantly, God is not done with His Church and the Gospel of Jesus Christ
- the church will have to go through (and is) a major purging of what we have held onto...
- radical change of heart, attitude, methods/application, philosophy must take place

- prophetic vision of the church...**is that of a biblically grounded Kingdom-minded culturally transformative, committed to rejecting the biases, prejudices, and past offenses of any and all people groups**
- **committed bringing the** the lion of perfect justice (righteousness) **and** the lamb of great mercy and sacrifice to a broken people in a pathetically dysfunctional culture.
- where we stand for justice on every level of our society, where we stand boldly against the advancements of anti-righteous activism while loving deeply the people that this activism may represent.
- Some consider this as “reconciling the philosophy of Billy Graham with that of Dr. Martin Luther King”

History has proven that God’s revival spirit has faithfully advanced His purposes and awakened and refined worship among God’s people through His use of a prophetic call!

- this next great church-wide global movement should be **prophetic** (divinely inspired proclamation.)

The “sound” of today’s prophetic call is that of Lion and the Lamb

- justice and mercy - it is filled with clear moral authority IN ALL AREAS and is gentle
- it can not hate those that hate, lie or persecute the Children of God.

Ex: I can look at what is...and see things as pathetic, or I can see things prophetically.

We see things differently when we **proclaim** Jesus.

- if we see things simply as pathetic we are only seeing symptoms
- prophetic sees the solution
- pathetic listens to the groaning of our culture
- prophetic listens to the heart of God
- pathetic is angry and mad, demeaning and judging of the world
- prophetic roars like the Lion of Judea with truth and justice and at the same time bows like a lamb with humility and compassion.

Verse Study:

2700 years ago a prophet of God (spokesman) Micah delivers a message to the people (parallels believers today); these people were struggling, their worship of God confused.

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- 8 **He has told you, O man, what is good;
and what does the Lord require of you
but to do justice, and to love kindness,**

and to walk humbly with your God?

Do Justice: justice is moral rightness (the perfect moral authority, the world was created in justice.

- Divine justice is God's perfect order for all of creation and human society.
- Divine justice embraces every aspect of the right ordering of human society according to the will of God, its creator
- To do justice is to correct that abuse and to meet those needs (Isa. 1:17).

Love Kindness: mercy (loving kindness and compassion):

Walk humbly with your God: humility with God serves to form the balance of justice/mercy

Modern Day prophetic call:

Declaration of Independence

- I would propose that **our nation coalesced around a prophetic call** consistent with that of those recorded in Scripture (not on the same level of revelation but divinely inspired) We hear it in the second sentence known as the preamble in the Declaration of Independence:

"We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness."

- It is the "Creator" who endows men and women with these rights— not the mayor, not the governor, not the president.

"We understand what political activists may not, namely that the antidote to moral relativism, cultural decadence, spiritual apathy, and ecclesiastical indifference is to be found in the teachings of Jesus Christ."

Rodriguez, Samuel. *The Lamb's Agenda: Why Jesus Is Calling You to a Life of Righteousness and Justice* (p. 25). Thomas Nelson.

What does God's prophetic call for justice and mercy look like in your life?

As you humbly seek God, "walk with your God, asking Him and listening to His voice, you too will have a prophetic call..."

- it will be consistent with His Word and testimony of Jesus (sound like a lion and lamb).
- it will cause you to do life differently.

Today be reminded of the old hymn:

My hope is built on nothing less Than Jesus' blood and righteousness. I dare not trust the sweetest frame, But wholly trust in Jesus' Name. On Christ the solid Rock I stand, All other ground is sinking sand; All other ground is sinking sand. When darkness seems to hide His face, I rest on His unchanging grace. In every high and stormy gale, My anchor holds within the veil. On Christ the solid Rock I stand, All other ground is sinking sand; All other ground is sinking sand.