

The Strong Shepherd- Micah 5:1-5 Study Guide

1. The prophet Micah (ca. 700 BC) witnessed failed leadership- national, religious and business leaders who led people into much distress. Are you a bit wary of bad leadership? Share an example of leaders who have caused a lot of damage.

2. Read Micah 5:1-3. The big idea for this week is to let failed leadership drive you closer to your Shepherd. Here are some thoughts on the progression of this:

a. Acknowledge the Bad (v.1)- As people were about to suffer loss, it was important for them to be honest about their fear, pain and anxiety. Discuss.

b. Believe in the goodness of God (v.2). Notice that Jesus, being God ('ancient of days'), came to a remote town of shepherds (social outcasts). He didn't come to a great city in the empire. He came for you and me. Consider the impact on your life to know that God sacrificially loves you. Discuss.

c. Consider the Process (v.3). There is a timing for things. God allows hardship for a season in order to get our attention and prepare us for His arrival. Discuss a time when God had to 'chastise' you to get your attention.

3. Read Micah 5:4-5.

Read this passage several times and discuss the various descriptions about Jesus as your shepherd. Read slowly and meditatively. After about 10 minutes, share your findings with the group.

Application

Let failed leadership drive you closer to your Shepherd. Discuss ways in which we as His "sheep" can allow ourselves to be led well by Jesus. What does solitude look like for you? What does it look like to Sabbath well? What does hearing the Shepherds voice look like for you (John 10:14-16b)? What does the Mary/Martha story show you (Luke 10:38-42) about letting God lead you? What changes would you like to implement next year as you consider Jesus as your leader? Discuss.

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Message Outline

Advent- Latin 'Adventus' = coming!

Colossians 2:17 - "These are a **shadow** of the things to come, but the **substance** belongs to Christ."

Advent Shadows

The Righteous Branch- Jeremiah 33:14-15

*The Strong Shepherd- Micah 5:1-5

The Mighty Victor- Zephaniah 3:14-20

The Strong Shepherd- Micah 5:1-5

Failed national leadership (3:1-3, 9-10)

Failed religious leadership (3:11)

Failed prophetic leadership (3:5-7, 11)

Failed economic leadership (6:10-12)

Big Idea: Let failed leadership drive you closer to your Shepherd.

A. Acknowledge the Bad (v.1)

Now muster your troops, O daughter of troops; siege is laid against us; with a rod they strike the judge of Israel on the cheek.

B. Believe in the Goodness of God (v.2)

2 But you, **O Bethlehem Ephrathah**, who are too little to be among the clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to be **ruler in Israel**, whose coming forth is from of old, **from ancient days**.

C. Consider the Process (v.3)

3 Therefore he shall give them up **until the time** when she who is in labor has given birth; then the rest of his brothers shall return to the people of Israel.

Hebrews 12:6

"For the Lord disciplines the one he loves..."

D. Draw Closer to Your Shepherd (v.4-5)

4 And he shall **stand** and **shepherd** his flock in the **strength** of the Lord, in the **majesty** of the name of the Lord his God. And they shall dwell **secure**, for now he shall be **great** to the ends of the earth. 5 And he shall be their **peace**.

Big Idea: Let failed leadership drive you closer to your Shepherd.

Luke 10

Mary: "...sat at the Lord's feet and listened to His teaching..."

Martha: "...was distracted with much serving."

Martha: 'Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me to serve alone? Tell her to help me.'

Jesus: "Martha, Martha, you are anxious and troubled about many things, but one thing is necessary. Mary has chosen the good portion, which will not be taken away from her."

Mary: chose Focus and Submission.