

## **Sermon Notes:**

### **Series: Minor Prophet, Major Message, # 4**

#### **Book: Micah**

In Matthew 13:15 Jesus said of some who listened to his teaching:

“This people’s heart has become calloused; they hardly hear with their ears, and they have closed their eyes.” He was quoting Isaiah 6, what God said to the prophet when he called him to speak to Israel.

As we have looked at Hosea, Amos and now Micah, is that what they thought of God’s people, as they issued warnings of impending judgment?

Are you are a person who responds quickly to spiritual warnings?

Context of Micah – it is around the year 735 before Christ. Isaiah is prophesying in Judah (southern kingdom), but God’s people in Israel (northern kingdom) have not heard a prophetic word since Hosea and Amos, probably in 760. Try to imagine their emotions (certainly curiosity, perhaps joy, maybe fear) as a prophet speaks after 25 years of silence. Here are the main chapter themes:

- 1 the sins of the people, a call to repentance
- 2 God’s plan vs. the plans of men  
the promise of deliverance
- 3 rebuke to false prophets
- 4 Israel as an example to the nations
- 5 Messianic prophecy
- 6 God’s case against his people
- 7 Israel’s judgment and restoration

#### **Questions about prophecy**

As we study God speaking audibly to prophets, and through their voice to his people, it is natural to ask this question: does that still happen today? You are likely aware that people today (many of them on media outlets) purport to speak prophetic words from God. Since God warned his people thousands of years ago to watch out for false prophets, that same danger could be real yet today. Thus we need discernment, and should ask ourselves: how can we know for sure?

The Biblical answer/s may be less clear than you would like...

Micah 2:11

Micah 3:5

2 Timothy 4:3

1 Thessalonians 5:19-21

1 John 4:1-6

Hebrews 1:1-4

Acts 2:17-18