



Stuff They Didn't Teach Me In Sunday School



Episode 091 - Here Comes the Judge, Prosecutor, Witness and Jury (Micah 1, 5, 6)

Every prophet brought the same basic message to God's people: turn from your sin, confess your guilt and receive His forgiveness for the sake of the promised Messiah. But each prophet portrayed it differently. Micah's message took the form of legal charges that God was bringing against Judah—a trial where God is their Judge, Prosecutor, Witness and Jury.

Each of us faces that same trial every time God's Law confronts us, and those who refuse to consider God's Law during this lifetime will have to face their Judge on the Last Day when Jesus Christ returns to judge the living and the dead.

- When caught in sin why do we often try to excuse or justify ourselves?
- What is the problem with trying to justify ourselves before God?
- What does God want us to do when our sins lie exposed by His Law?

In chapter six we stand before God without excuse. Our sins laid bare, we are completely condemned by the Law.

- When faced with their guilt what sort of things do people try to do to satisfy God?
- Why is it impossible for us to do anything to make up for our sins?
- Is God offering us a way to win our own salvation when He tells us to "do justice" and "love kindness"? What is He saying?
- What does it mean to "walk humbly with your God"?

Micah points out that there is no physical offering we can make to satisfy God or appease His righteous wrath. That fits with what David wrote, "The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, You will not despise" (Psalm 51:17). Micah 5:5 points out the amazing Gospel truth: the Messiah is God's perfect solution to the sin that stains us, "And He shall be their peace."

- When God's Law and our guilty conscience terrify us, how can Jesus be our peace?
- Talk through all that Jesus' suffered to take away our sins and satisfy the wrath of God we deserve because of those sins.
- Which of Jesus' words from the cross gives you special comfort and peace when you struggle with guilt?

In chapter five, Micah prophesies the birth of the promised Messiah in Bethlehem. Verse four points out "He will stand and shepherd His flock in the strength of the LORD." In John 10 Jesus calls Himself "The Good Shepherd" and in Psalm 23, David describes all that our Shepherd does for us. Read Psalm 23.

- What new meaning does "walk humbly with your God" take on when you think of Jesus as the Good Shepherd "who stands and shepherds His flock in the strength of the LORD"?