



MICAH

WEEK 2 - SWORDS INTO PLOWSHARES

OVERVIEW

One of the perennial problems of the human condition is humanity's seeming addiction to violence, war, and death. No matter how much "progress" we make in civilization, we consistently find new ways to kill and maim and destroy, while living in fear of our neighbor. In this section of Micah's prophecy, he paints the picture of a time in which this addiction to violence is overcome and all nations live in a permanent absence of war. Weapons are rendered useless by this universal peace and are turned into useful farming implements. Instruments of death are turned into instruments of life. Jesus picked up on this vision of nonviolence in his teachings ("turn the other cheek," "love your enemies," etc.). What would it mean for us to embrace this vision of a non-violent world?

They will hammer their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation will no longer fight against nation, nor train for war anymore.

Micah 4:3

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What does Barry mean by the phrase, "it's my time to eat"?
2. Read Micah 3:8-12. What does Micah see happening in Jerusalem?
3. Even though we might not spread violence with swords, what are some examples of what happens when we have violence in our hearts?
4. How do we change the violence in our hearts?
5. Read Micah 4:1-5. How can the LORD's teaching (as mentioned in verse 2) bring hope to the people of Israel?
6. According to Jesus' instructions in Luke 6:27, what can we do, specifically, to help bring about the peace and prosperity Micah 4 refers to?
7. What would it mean for us to embrace this vision of a non-violent world?
8. How would you respond to Barry's question: if you were meant to represent God's blessing to the world, what weapon in your heart needs to be transformed?

RESOURCES

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