

Judges 17

Micah's Idolatry

Now there was a man of the hill country of Ephraim whose name was Micah. 2 And he said to his mother, "The 1,100 pieces of silver that were taken from you, about which you uttered a curse and also spoke it in my hearing, behold, the silver is with me; I took it."

And his mother said, "Blessed be my son by the LORD." 3 He then returned the 1,100 pieces of silver to his mother, and his mother said, "I wholly consecrate the silver from my hand to the LORD for my son to make a carved image and a cast metal image; so now I will return them to you."

4 So when he returned the silver to his mother, his mother took two hundred pieces of silver and gave them to the silversmith, who made them into a carved image and a cast metal image, and they were in the house of Micah.

5 And the man Micah had a shrine and he made an ephod and household idols, and consecrated one of his sons, so that he might become his priest. 6 In those days there was no king in Israel; everyone did what was right in his own eyes.

7 Now there was a young man from Bethlehem in Judah, of the family of Judah, who was a Levite; and he was staying there. 8 Then the man left the city, Bethlehem in Judah, to stay wherever he would find a place; and as he made his journey, he came to the hill country of Ephraim, to the house of Micah.

9 Micah said to him, "Where do you come from?" And he said to him, "I am a Levite from Bethlehem in Judah, and I am going to stay wherever I may find a place."

10 Micah then said to him, "Stay with me and be a father and a priest to me, and I will give you ten pieces of silver a year, a supply of clothing, and your sustenance." So the Levite went in. 11 The Levite agreed to live with the man, and the young man became to him like one of his sons.

12 So Micah consecrated the Levite, and the young man became his priest and lived in the house of Micah. 13 Then Micah said, "Now I know that the LORD will prosper me, because I have a Levite as a priest."

We will use five tools on our expedition that are built around five questions

1. What questions were provoked within you?
2. Did anything confuse you?

3. Did anything move you emotionally?
4. Did God instruct you to do something?
5. Did you gain any insight into God's character?

Micah Who is like God

Paul's observations and insights

1. All priests were to be Levites, according to the Law, but not all Levites were priests.
2. What is the difference between priests and Levites?
3. Priests existed prior to the Levites in a general sense.
4. What was the Levitical priesthood? The Levitical priesthood began with Aaron,
5. Aaron's descendants served as the priests in Israel, ministering in the tabernacle and, later, the temple, primarily as mediators between man and God.
6. The Levitical priests bore the responsibility of offering the sacrifices required by the Mosaic Law.
7. What is it with the eleven hundred pieces of silver? Remember Delilah who took from each of the Philistines eleven hundred pieces of silver.
8. A man of the hill country would have been with Israel. It was in the valley that the enemy could be found.
9. What does the name Micah mean?
10. The mother had cursed because someone had stolen from her eleven hundred pieces of silver – so she cursed the thief.
11. What is it to be cursed? What is a curse? How powerful are curses? How do we break the curse? And how do you get cursed?
12. Micah had heard his Mother curse. As parents, how much damage have we brought into our children's lives, because of the wrong things we have said and done?
13. Micah makes a bold statement, he says, 'I took the silver'. He doesn't seem to have a great deal of remorse!
14. Why did he confess this to her now?
15. Why did she bless him when he told her what he had done?
16. Micah gives her the silver back and she, having lost it to a thief, then offers the silver to the Lord.
17. Did she dedicate the silver to the Lord to buy back her son from the curse she had spoken out?
18. She says 'I dedicate it to the Lord'. Why did she say that? What is a dedication to the Lord?
19. Then she instructs the silver to be melted down, so the silversmith could make molten images to honour God!
20. God doesn't want or need, images, so why do we?
21. His mother only gave two hundred pieces of silver to the silversmith to use to make

the images. Why?

22. Micah allowed them to be in his house, but what in appropriate artefacts do we have around our home that bring offense to God?

23. Why do people create shrines?

24. Why did he set aside his son to become a priest?

25. Because there was no king in the land everyone done what was right in their own eyes.

26. Is it good to have no restraints?

27. What does it mean to you to do what is right in your own eyes?

28. What happened to Micah's son, who was made a priest, when the Levite priest took his role?

29. The Levites were given specific tasks in the temple.

30. This Levite priest, did he get called by God to leave Bethlehem, even as Abraham was called to leave the city?

31. Was this the early form of 'going travelling'?

32. He ended up at Micah's house, Micah having heard he was a Levite priest, employs him to work for his family as his own private family priest.

33. Were Micah's motives to employ the young man as a priest righteous?

34. How could the young man be a father to Micah who was an older man than him?
Because of his anointing as a Levite.

35. This young priest is given board and lodging in exchange for being a priest to Micah and his family.

36. What is it to become like a son but not a son?

37. What is it to consecrate the young man? It is to set him apart for service.

38. How and why did Micah know God would prosper him with the priest living in his house?