

A WORD ON WORSHIP

REVIEW OF MESSAGE FROM MARCH 16, 2014

BY PASTOR ANDREW KIKKERT, SUNRISE COMMUNITY CHURCH

Hear Sunday Sermons at www.SunriseTC.org

Judges 17:4-6

“His mother took two hundred pieces of silver and gave them to the silversmith who made them into a graven image and a molten image, and they were in the house of Micah. And the man Micah had a shrine and he made an ephod and household idols and consecrated one of his sons that he might become his priest. In those days there was no king in Israel; every man did what was right in his own eyes.”

We are introduced to a man named Micah from the hill country of Ephraim. Micah was not the model son, but then neither was his mother at “Proverbs 31 kind of woman.” Micah had stolen 1100 pieces of silver from her, and she had pronounced a curse on the thief in his hearing. (One has to wonder if she knew† or at least suspected† that it was her son who was the culprit.) It seems to have been the curse which prompted Micah to confess, and not his conscience. She receives back what her son stole, but then sets a portion of it aside for the creation of false idols to be a blessing to her son. Micah went on to make other† “household gods” for his private collection.

Micah is a tragic example of the person who has placed their trust in a false religion. During the good times, they feel as though their religion is the cause of their success and prosperity. And then, suddenly, disaster comes their way which their gods are powerless to prevent. They are left with nothing other than a feeling of emptiness and helplessness. Sadly, for many, this realization comes without any repentance and faith. But there are others whom God graciously brings to the end of themselves so that they will repent and embrace God’s only means of salvation.

Micah and his mother are yet another example of doing what is right in their own eyes. Doing what is right in one’s own eyes is living by one’s own assessment of good and evil, of what is right and what is wrong. Doing what is right in God’s eyes is living in obedience to God’s revealed Word. The Israelites, much like men and women today, were† “doing their own thing.” If one reads our text in Judges with God’s law (as revealed in the Pentateuch) in mind, it is obvious what evils are being committed† – by Micah, by Jonathan, by the Danites, and by virtually all of the Israelites.

All too often people discern God’s will by what they want. I don’t know how many times I’ve heard someone practicing adultery or any other form of immorality looking to justify their sin with the statement,† “I know that God wants me to be happy.” Thus, even though the Bible explicitly forbids their behavior some practice it anyway, convinced that God looks on them with favor because their personal satisfaction supersedes God’s clear revelation. God’s Word is the basis for discerning God’s will. When favorable circumstances accompany clear biblical approval, then we can rejoice. But when circumstances are favorable and the Scriptures are not, we must go with what the Scriptures say, not what circumstances permit.



Sunrise Community Church
Come acknowledge the Lord in our midst
EVERY SUNDAY BEGINNING AT 8:45 A.M.

MARCH 2014						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
23	24	25	26	27	28	1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31	1	2	3	4	5

March 2014

The Hymns We Sing

COURTESY OF THE CYBER HYMNAL™

<http://www.hymntime.com/>

There Is Power In The Blood

<http://www.hymntime.com/tch/htm/t/h/e/therepow.htm>

"They have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb."

Rev. 7:14

Words & Music: Lewis E. Jones, 1899. Jones wrote this song at a camp meeting at Mountain Lake Park, Maryland.

Would you be free from the burden of sin?
There's power in the blood, power in the blood;
Would you o'er evil a victory win?
There's wonderful power in the blood.

Refrain

There is power, power, wonder working power
In the blood, of the Lamb;
There is power, power, wonder working power
In the precious blood of the Lamb.

Would you be free from your passion and pride?
There's power in the blood, power in the blood;
Come for a cleansing to Calvary's tide;
There's wonderful power in the blood.

Refrain

Would you be whiter, much whiter than snow?
There's power in the blood, power in the blood;
Sin stains are lost in its life giving flow.
There's wonderful power in the blood.

Refrain

Would you do service for Jesus your king?
There's power in the blood, power in the blood;
Would you live daily His praises to sing?
There's wonderful power in the blood.

Refrain

Into My Heart

<http://www.hymntime.com/tch/htm/i/m/y/imyheart.htm>

"That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith."

Ephesians 3

Words & Music: Verse 1, Harry D. Clarke (1888-1957) 1924, verse 2 anon.

Into my heart, into my heart,
Come into my heart, Lord Jesus;
Come in today, come in to stay;
Come into my heart, Lord Jesus.

Out of my heart, out of my heart,
Shine out of my heart, Lord Jesus;
Shine out today, shine out alway;
Shine out of my heart, Lord Jesus.



Harry D. Clarke

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT SUNRISE

March 2014

- | | | |
|----------|------------|--|
| March 16 | 8:45 a.m. | Doing What is Right In Your Own Eyes
Judges 17-18 |
| | 10:30 a.m. | Adult Sunday School |
| March 17 | | St. Patrick's Day |
| March 18 | 7:00 p.m. | Bible Study in Philippians; at Kikkert's home |
| March 21 | 7:00 p.m. | Game Night |
| March 23 | 8:45 a.m. | Israel's Sodom & Gomorrah Judges 19-21 |
| | 10:30 a.m. | Adult Sunday School |
| March 25 | 7:00 p.m. | Bible Study in Philippians; at Kikkert's home |
| March 28 | 6:30 p.m. | Friday Night Fellowship |

The Cost of Discipleship

China: Wenxi Li uses prison time to advance the Gospel

[www.PERSECUTION.ORG](http://www.persecution.org)

China (MNN) — A man imprisoned for his faith in China is bringing fellow inmates to Christ. According to Voice of the Martyrs USA, Chinese courts gave Wenxi Li a two-year prison term last summer for trying to set up a Christian bookstore.

His family recently shared an update with VOM, saying Li has been sharing the Gospel with fellow prisoners. As a result, several have put their faith in Christ.

Pray that these new believers will grow in their knowledge of Christ. Pray that God will use Li to disciple the new believers.

Before his arrest, Wenxi Li worked at a Christian bookstore in Beijing. In 2012, Li traveled to Shanxi province to help local Christians open a new book store in the capital city of Taiyuan. But police raided the new business, Enyu Bookstore, and confiscated \$6,000 worth of books that Li had brought with him from Beijing.

When Li was asked to come retrieve the confiscated literature, they immediately arrested him upon arrival and put him in jail. Li was reportedly denied bail because of the seriousness of his "crime."

Cai Hong Li, Wenxi Li's wife, tells VOM that after the police arrested her husband, they told her it was because Wenxi Li was involved in an "illegal business." However, the bookstore at which he worked has a legal license to operate, and Li wasn't involved in managing the business.

"[Wenxi was] just sent to find a rental place for a new store," Cai Hong Li told VOM.

Since Wenxi's arrest, Cai Hong Li and their two children have been harassed by anonymous sources. Cai Hong says she fears for her children's safety.

On its Web site, VOM says "China continues to arrest, torture and jail Christians associated with illegal house churches as they attempt to control or eliminate all religions." Though all religions are being persecuted, those who follow Christ appear to be the hardest hit.

Despite the government's crackdown, Joshua Project and Operation World say China holds between 70 and 75 million evangelical Christians. VOM says an estimated 3,000 Chinese people are coming to Christ each day. Despite the threat of persecution, torture, and prison, millions of believers are continuing to meet in illegal house churches.

Learn more about VOM and how they support persecuted believers in China [here](#).