

A Ruler from Bethlehem  
Micah 5:1-5a

Review:

1. We must trust God to deal with the corruption and wickedness in our leaders and in ourselves in His way and in His time
2. We must humble ourselves before the God Who humbled Himself to be born to a poor family in an out-of-the-way place
3. As God kept the promise He made to David, we can trust that He will keep the promises He has made to us
4. We can trust God to be gracious to give us the peace and blessings we need

Go Further: Read Isaiah 11:1-12

1. According to verse 1, what will spring from the stem of Jesse? What will grow out of his roots?
2. Given that Jesse was the father of King David, Who is verse 1 talking about?
3. Who does verse 2 say will rest upon the Branch?
4. In what 6 ways does verse 2 describe the Spirit of the Lord?
5. According to verse 3, what is the Branch's greatest delight?
6. According to verses 3 and 4, in what way will the Branch make His decisions and judgments?
7. How will the Branch carry out the punishment of the wicked?
8. With what two things does verse 5 say the Branch will clothe Himself?
9. How do verses 6-8 describe the way the Branch will change the relationships between predators and their prey? Between man and animals?
10. Why does verse 9 say that the natural world will become a completely safe place?
11. What title does verse 10 use for the Branch?
12. Verse 10 begins to explain how the Root of Jesse will restore the relationships between people. Who does verse 10 say will be drawn to the Root of Jesse?
13. Who does verse 11 say the Root of Jesse will recover for Himself? From where will He gather His people?
14. Who does verse 12 say will be included in the army of the Lord?

Apply:

1. What is your greatest delight? What parts of the description of the Holy Spirit in verse 2 might lead you to a greater desire for closeness to God?
2. Verse 4 says that Jesus will use His mouth and lips, His words, to bring judgment on the wicked. How has God's Word brought judgment into your own life? What parts of the culture around us might God's Word be condemning?
3. Verse 1 calls Jesus a Branch from the stem of Jesse, and verse 10 calls Him the Root of Jesse. How can He be both a Branch and a Root at the same time? What does this tell us about Who Jesus is?
4. What does a banner do for an army? If the Church were to rally around the banner of Christ today, what might we have to leave behind? What changes might we have to make in our daily lives?

5. Why would the inclusion of the Gentiles in the army of God have been such a shock to the people of Isaiah's time? How can we reach out to those we might consider to be the opponents of Christ?