

December 17/18, 2005

Study Questions
Christmas in the Prophets
This One Will Be Our Peace
Micah 5:1-15, Zechariah 9:9-10
Pastor Bryan Clark

Opening Discussion

1. Do you or does someone around you struggle with control issues? How do these control issues manifest themselves in everyday life?
2. How do we distinguish between control that is normal and necessary and that which is unhealthy?
3. Why do you think some people have an unhealthy need to try to control circumstances and people?

Bible Study

1. Read Micah 5:1-15. Also read 2 Kings 25:1-7 which describes what these people were up against. What would it be like to be surrounded by the enemy, have your king humiliated and rendered powerless to deliver you, and the enemy be not only more powerful but wicked and ruthless? Can you imagine a more “out of control” environment?

2. What do we learn about the promised King in Micah 5:1-2?

Why is this important?

What did the Magi believe this passage taught according to Matthew 2:1-6?

How did King Herod respond?

3. What will be the source of peace for these people under siege according to Micah 5:5a?

Compare Philippians 4:4-7. In the midst of circumstances we cannot control, where do we find peace?

Is it possible to experience true peace if I am determined to try to control the people and circumstances in my life? Why or why not?

4. According to Micah, the King will be their source of peace. To accomplish this, the King will clear out their military power and false religions (see Micah 5:10-14). Could they ever know lasting peace if they were dependent on their military strength or their false gods?

What will be necessary for us to experience God's peace in our lives?

Can we stay on the throne of our lives and expect to experience God's peace? Why or why not?

5. Is our desire to have Jesus rule in our lives as King and our desire to control the people and circumstances around us in conflict? In other words, can we have it both ways?

Application

1. Do you really want to experience the peace of Jesus in the midst of the chaos of life? Do you desire that peace enough to step off the throne of your life and allow Him to reign as King?
2. Can you think of any specific areas where the King needs to clean house for you to experience His peace?
3. What are some practical ways you can identify areas in your life where you tend to struggle with an unhealthy need for control?

Who in your LifeGroup (or among your friends if you are not in a LifeGroup) can help you identify those areas and keep you accountable for surrendering those areas to the King?