

We Need to be Challenged!

Do you remember this scenario as children? Our best friend wanted us to do something in which we had a great deal of doubt as to our ability to perform it. Maybe it was jumping from a tree or climbing something that looked imposing. We would hesitate, only to be challenged by the statement, “I dare you!” Yep, that was usually all it took for us to overcome our doubts and attempt whatever it was they wanted us to do. It took a challenge (of which a dare is only one type) to motivate us to action.

It is no different spiritually speaking. The writer of the epistle to the Hebrews indicated the need for such motivation when he said, “And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works” (Heb. 10:24). There is a great need in many congregations today regarding motivation. For any number of reasons, some congregations have relaxed into a state of merely “hanging on.” To remove such a crippling attitude, members of such congregations must “stir one another up” regarding the many good things that can be done.

May we so motivate each other! Many good things can be done. God’s Word is to be spread through the world. Heavy hearts are in need of comfort. Many who are struggling need to be supported. May we look for such areas of need and motivate one another to the accomplishing of the many tasks set before us.

Sunday A.M. – “Power of a Challenge” (Heb. 10:23-24)

1. “Challenge” Defined (Eccl. 9:10)
2. Consequences of a Failure to Challenge
3. The Power of a Challenge (1 Cor. 1:10; 2 Tim. 4:2)
4. God’s Challenge (Mt. 6:33; Mt. 7:7-8; Mk. 16:15-16; Mt. 5:44; 1 Thes. 5:18; Heb. 12:1)

P.M.: Micah

Micah

1. Background:

- A. Contemporary with Isaiah and Hosea
- B. Analysis of three kings of Judah (2 Chr. 27:2; 2 Kgs. 16:3-4; 18:3-5)
- C. Micah: A Messianic Prophet

2. Overview:

A. Judgments against Samaria and Jerusalem (Chaps. 1-2)

- 1. The coming judgment on Israel (1:1-7)
- 2. Mourning for Israel and Judah (1:8-16)
- 3. Woe to evildoers (2:1-5)
- 4. Lying prophets 92:6-11)

B. Words of Condemnation: Messianic Hopes (3:1-5:15)

- 1. Wicked rulers and prophets (3:1-12)
- 2. The Lord's reign in Zion (4:1-5; Mt. 16:18; Mk. 9:1; Acts 2)
- 3. Zion's future triumph (4:6-13)
- 4. The coming Messiah (5:1-5)
- 5. Judgment on Israel's enemies (5:6-15)

C. The Lord's Controversy with His People (6:1-7:20)

- 1. God pleads with Israel (6:1-8)
- 2. The punishment due such rejection (6:9-16)
- 3. Sorrow for Israel's sins (7:1-7)
- 4. Israel's confession (7:8-13)
- 5. God will forgive Israel (7:14-20)

3. Great Lessons from Micah

- A. The need for humility (James 4:7-10)
- B. The wages of sin (Rom. 6:23)
- C. The power of repentance
- D. The ultimate victory of truth (1 Cor. 15:57-58)