

Attorney CG Finney

In the early 1800's attorney C.G. Finney (1792 - 1875), of New York state, was facing a "faith crisis". Here's an excerpt from this past week's national Sunday School lesson, grounded in Micah 3:5-12, titled: "No Tolerance for Corrupt Officials":

"You On Retainer"

C.G. Finney (1792-1875) was one of the great evangelists of the first half of nineteenth century America. Initially a lawyer in Adams, New York, Finney eventually decided to search out the question of his salvation. He was uncertain about his spiritual condition even though he was active in a local church and sang in the choir.

His crisis of faith reached its boiling point in the autumn of 1821. In Finney's own words: "I was brought face to face with the question whether I would accept Christ as presented in the Gospel, or pursue a worldly course of life." A short time later, he sensed an inward voice that seemed to ask, "Will you accept it now, today?" His reply: "Yes, I will accept it today, or I will die in the attempt."

But the seeming rashness of the promise only increased Finney's inner turmoil. He was still uncertain. Having sought privacy in the nearby woods for prayer, he was ashamed that someone might find him praying. He yielded to the promises of God's Word that were flooding his mind when he finally acknowledged the absurdity of his situation.

Peaceful at last, he hastened back to his office, where a deacon of the church was waiting for him. The man had hired Finney to argue a case for him in court, but Finney told him: "I am sorry, but I have received a retainer from the Lord Jesus Christ to plead His case, and I cannot plead yours."

Micah too had "received a retainer from the Lord." This meant Micah could represent no "client" but that one.

Micah 3:5-12 (NIV)

⁵ This is what the LORD says:

“As for the prophets
who lead my people astray,
they proclaim ‘peace’
if they have something to eat,
but prepare to wage war against anyone
who refuses to feed them.

⁶ Therefore night will come over you, without visions,
and darkness, without divination.
The sun will set for the prophets,
and the day will go dark for them.

⁷ The seers will be ashamed
and the diviners disgraced.
They will all cover their faces
because there is no answer from God.”

⁸ But as for me, I am filled with power,

with the Spirit of the LORD,
and with justice and might,
to declare to Jacob his transgression,
to Israel his sin.

⁹ Hear this, you leaders of Jacob,
you rulers of Israel,
who despise justice
and distort all that is right;
¹⁰ who build Zion with bloodshed,
and Jerusalem with wickedness.
¹¹ Her leaders judge for a bribe,
her priests teach for a price,
and her prophets tell fortunes for money.
Yet they look for the LORD's support and say,
"Is not the LORD among us?
No disaster will come upon us."
¹² Therefore because of you,
Zion will be plowed like a field,
Jerusalem will become a heap of rubble,
the temple hill a mound overgrown with thickets.

I thought a lot about the underlying meanings this story might have for the Christ-centered attorney and I like to think it directs us toward the interjection and application of Biblical principles in all of our casework.

I pray you have an amazing and spirit-filled-up day!!

- Jack