



Small group discussion questions February 2018

Chapter & verse – Catherine Lewis-Smith (page 18)

Read Micah 3:5-8, followed by Catherine Lewis-Smith’s article.

1. Why is it, according to the biblical text, that ‘the sun shall go down’ on false prophets? What is wrong with their actions?
2. The first paragraph of ‘Chapter & verse’ describes the writer’s encounter with someone who sees the future coming. Is that what it takes to be a prophet? What qualities make a prophet?
3. Catherine’s second paragraph says that ‘the modern world economy has its own free market prophets,’ and provides an example. Do you agree? If so, are there other modern examples of prophets, good and bad?
4. The article’s third paragraph quotes from earlier in Micah, likening the biblical society’s practice of coveting houses to today’s housing crisis. She goes on, in the next paragraph, to argue Christians might not want to ‘peg their finances to the world and enjoy the profits’. Why not? What attitude should churches have to financial investment?
5. ‘Prophets are not well received,’ says Catherine in the penultimate paragraph of the article. Do you agree? What biblical examples can you think of? Why do we respond to prophets in the way we do?
6. The article ends with an example of what might be said if ‘our commitment to justice gave us courage to speak out about the world economy and its pitfalls’. What would your statement be?

For further reflection: ‘In everything, do to others as you would have them do to you; for this is the law and the prophets.’ Matthew 7:12

