

Minority Reports – Part 15
Of Whom the World Was Not Worthy
Micah 5:2-5a; Matt.1:18-2:12; Heb.11:32-40

0.0 Introduction

0.1 Today concluding our series on outsiders: one-offs, foreigners, immigrants, out-of-steps, incl. Jesus, “who came to his own...uncomprehended”

0.3 Now we turn tables to look at *every* believer: “of whom world is not worthy” (Heb.11:38)

1.0 Why Believers Turn the Tables

1.1 Anec: a job applicant writes a rejection letter

1.2 Often, people look down on believers for being ignorant, naïve, superstitious, illogical, and even inflict “savage indignities & severe hardships” (PE Hughes on vv.36-37)

1.3 Turning the tables (our gracious rejection letter): “Their nobility and their integrity shine forth all the more brilliantly against the world’s dark hatred, for in a world darkened and degraded by sin they truly are the light...” (ibid)

1.4 Jesus’ words to this effect (Matt.5:16), and Paul’s (Rom.12:9,14,18)

2.0 How Believers Turn the Tables

2.1 They listen for God’s voice amidst the chorus of human ones

2.2 They keep looking for God’s light amidst darkness of human certainty

2.3 They align themselves with God’s truth, rather than configure it to themselves

2.4 They keep listening to God’s Spirit, who influences and guides and teaches

2.5 They care about others – believers *and* others also

2.6 They love as they have known love – Jn.13:35

2.7 They are trying to live as Jesus did – I Jn.2

2.8 They are looking ahead to figure where God is heading and what he is doing

3.0 When Believers Turn the Tables

3.1 They follow in footsteps of unusual God-Man: for Jesus was truly human, yet alien

3.2 The Christian life is long exercise in pursuit of what we don’t yet possess

3.3 The Christian life personally constitutes ‘the fifth gospel’

3.4 God loves to draw close to humble people

Upcoming: Dec.26, Jan.2, 9 – Dr. Robert Frazier, Guest Preaching
Jan.16 – New Year Sermon Series (details TBA)