

# Sermon Starter/ Meditation 1

The Mountain of God: Micah 4:1-5



They will beat their swords into plowshares  
and their spears into pruning hooks.  
Nation will not take up sword against nation,  
nor will they train for war anymore.  
Everyone will sit under their own vine  
and under their own fig tree,  
and no one will make them afraid,  
for the Lord Almighty has spoken.<sup>1</sup>



**In our world of ongoing conflict, war and fear, Micah captures such a powerful image of hope, light and peace in the darkness - the image of the Day of the Lord, the coming of God's Kingdom or God's Reign, the Mountain of God**

And Micah also captures such a powerful image of the role of farming and food security in the Reign of God; where **the tools of war are not thrown away but are transformed into instruments for farming – for peace!** Instead of being used in war, swords and spears are beaten and reshaped into plowshares and pruning hooks, key tools for gardening, for farming, for growing food. All of us are called to the fields to take part. God empowers all of us to participate.

This brings a together a powerful connection: that **an essential part of true peace is a world where everyone has enough to eat – where no one goes hungry, where there are tables full of nutritious**

**food. It is a vision that peace contributes to ending hunger, and that ending hunger contributes to peace.**

Another strong image in Micah's vision is freedom from fear, as everyone rests under their own vine, under the shade of their own fig tree. This image ignites hope, that we look forward to God's Reign, where no one is lacking anything, where everyone has enough to eat, everyone has a full table, a safe place to call home, and a place in their community.

And as we look forward to this reality, we all have a part to play. God calls us to participate in the building of this Reign, right now, and in a variety of ways. This isn't just a far-off image of some unimaginable hope and peace. God calls us now to take part; to grab our plowshares and pruning hooks and get to work!

<sup>1</sup>From the New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)