

I. Reality Defined - Micah 7:1-6

1. What misery is mine (**verse 1**) - a lament
 - despair
 - he describes his feelings (Micah's - not God's)
2. The fields were empty of anything
 - no cluster of grapes, no early figs
 - Rea -fruitless... like so many believers
3. He craved upright people (**verse 2**)
 - verse 2 explains verse 1
 - “faithful” - vanished
 - “upright” - vanished (not one remains)
 - Rea -it is common for prophets and God's spokesmen to feel alone - the “only one”
(an Elijah complex)
4. Those who are left are ready to “shed blood”
 - they are able to shed blood with both hands (**verse 3**)
 - Rea -ambidextrous evil
 - they hunt to shed blood with “nets”
 - the idea is that they are looking for a chance to take advantage of others
 - they are “skilled” at this
5. The “best” of them is like a brier (**verse 4**)
 - worse than a thorn hedge
6. God is about to judge
 - watchman... sound the alarm - God is coming (visit)
 - prophets are watchmen
7. The situation is bad- you can't trust anyone (**verse 5**)
 - the women who is close to you - don't trust
 - the close friend
 - even your sons and daughters rise against you (**verse 6**)
- Rea 8. Where there ought to be loyalty there is unfaithfulness
 - they do not follow the fifth command - honor your father and mother
9. You can't trust anyone
 - the magnitude of sin
- Rea **Ideas and Questions:**
 1. Have you ever “felt” this way?
 2. There's a certain aloneness in doing the right thing
 3. Remember the old song - “Where could I go but to the Lord?”
 4. There is no hope in man/ mankind
 - discuss the persons of Judas and Peter - who let the Lord down

II. Salvation Discovered - Micah 7:7-10

1. I watch for the Lord (**verse 7**)
 - my God will hear me
 - watch in “hope”
 - he is confident that the Lord would be faithful

- Rea -even when men are not
2. In the most desperate situations we watch for God
He WILL deliver
3. I have fallen but God will raise me up (**verse 8**)
-so, don't gloat
- Rea -even though (right now) I sit in darkness
-God will use the wicked for His purpose
- Rea -"you meant it for evil, but God meant it for good"
- Rea 4. Note in **verse 9** that Micah knows he's sinned against God - so this might be a just punishment for him
-He will hear my case and plead my cause
- Rea -so there seems to be two people here - the Lord who judges and the one who pleads his case. The Lord (is the father) and the pleader (the Son)
5. When this happens his enemy will be covered with shame (**verse 10**)
6. God will restore His people
God will trample the evil man like "mire" in the streets
- Rea **Ideas and Questions:**
1. God will raise up - so there is "resurrection imagery" here
2. God will bring light out of darkness - there is "creation imagery" here
3. The truth is that God's men/ people always sin, and God raises them back up
-so, when you fall...

III. Forgiveness Celebrated - Micah 7:18-20

- Rea 1. Their only hope? - God is a forgiver (**verse 18**)
2. Verse 18 celebrates with a rhetorical question - who is like our God?
3. His character:
-He forgives (verse 19 - He will hurl our sins into the depths of the sea)
-He doesn't stay angry forever
-He shows mercy
-He will again have compassion (**verse 19**)
- Rea -He can be depended on to be this way - He is faithful, even when people are not
4. There is no one like God
5. You will be faithful to Jacob and Abraham (**verse 20**)
- Rea -and their seed
-and the remnant of their inheritance
6. He is true to the oath that He pledge their ancestors years ago
- Rea -His promises stand no matter if it is one week or 100 years
- Rea **Ideas and Questions:**
1. So two ends of the spectrum
-on the one hand... hopeless
-on the other hand... there is God and His provision of forgiveness
2. If you are hopeless... right now
-remember that God is faithful... over time
3. They had brought these bad things upon themselves - but God forgave and restored them anyway
4. This is a great demonstration of the "character" of God

TJ Betts - SS Lesson for 11-27-22