

June 29, 2014 Sermon Application handout

“Living in a Dark World?”

Micah 6:9-7:7

I. Introduction

1. Before you begin, go to the Lord in prayer. Ask God to help give you the strength you need to wait upon Him for an answer to your prayer. Thank God that He hears your prayers.
2. Read Micah 6:9-7:6 and make some general observations. Does it appear the people were repentant? What groups of people are mentioned in this section?

II. Lamentable D_____ (Micah 6:9-7:6)

3. Read Micah 6:9-12. At this point, Micah had been preaching to the people to repent of their sin and turn toward God for over two decades. What does this passage seem to indicate? Had the people finally turned? What do the actions described reveal?
4. Based on what you just read, what does Micah declare to the people that God would do in light of their choices from verses 13-16?
5. Why must God judge Judah? What does verse 16 say the condition of their heart was in exactly? Who were they following after and emulating? How bad had this actually gotten (see 1 Kings 16:21-34)?

6. How was Micah feeling at this point? What does Micah 7:1-6 disclose about his heart?

7. Examine this passage a little closer. See if you can list out at least three ways a society breaks down when the people refuse to follow the Lord? What are they like? What do they do? Who is affected?

III. What To Do in D_____ Times (Micah 7:7)

8. Indeed Micah was living in very dark times. But look at his response in verse 7! What is Micah choosing to do in light of his circumstance?

9. What are some circumstances in your own life that are tempting you to be discouraged? How would preaching the words “but as for me” to your own heart begin to bring hope during your own difficult trial?

10. The first “resolve” Micah mentions in verse 7 is to wait for God to act. Instead of fretting or taking matters into your own hands, how might you wait upon the Lord like Micah resolved to do? (See Psalm 37, 42, & 119 to help develop your answers).

11. It can be so difficult to wait, especially if you have been waiting a long time. In the midst of it all, what does Romans 8:26-29 promise the believer is happening while they wait upon Him? How does this give you hope in your own time of difficulty?

12. Micah also declares confidently at the end of verse 7, that “God will hear me.” Why would prayer be important as you seek the Lord’s direction in your trial? List out ways you can nurture devotion to prayer as you wait upon God?

13. What is Micah’s own attitude toward prayer? Where is his confidence placed? Do you pray with the same confidence why or why not?

14. Is this confident attitude that God would hear his prayer just limited to Micah in particular? What does the Apostle John say in 1 John 5:13-15?

15. Why did John write 1 John in the first place? How does he say believers should approach God in prayer?

16. Hebrews 4:14-16 reminds all believers that, "We have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession...(therefore) let us with *confidence* draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need." Believer, your God is the God of your Salvation, He hears your prayers. Go to Him now and pour out your heart-pray with confidence to the God of Refuge, Hope, and Comfort.

"Now, child of God, go away with this promise in your hand, and in your heart—"My God will hear me"; and then use it like a magic wand. Turn it whichever way you will and it will clear your path. You are going to preach the gospel in a distant country, perhaps; and your spirit sinks as you sigh, "Who is sufficient for these things?" Lift up your heart to God, and his grace shall be sufficient for you, and his strength shall be made perfect in your weakness, for your God will hear you. Or you have to go home tonight to a sick house, and to lose one that is dear to you. You shall be sustained, for in your ear is this word, "My God will hear me." Or, perhaps, you yourself have to sicken and die. Do you enquire—What shall I do in the swellings of Jordan? Here is your happy answer, "My God will hear me." I shall cry to him, and he will answer me. He will have a desire to the work of his hands. Yea, though I go down into the valley of the shadow of death my God will hear me; and when I lie in the tomb my God will remember me, and he will call me up with sound of trumpet, and my body shall live again. My God shall hear me singing his praises before his throne. My God shall hear me, world without end, as my whole being shall lift up her joy-notes of "Hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah" unto him who loved me out of the pit, and lifted me up to his own right hand." (C.H. Spurgeon)

Specific Resources for Micah:

Mastering the Old Testament vol 21 by Walt Kaiser

A Commentary on Micah by Bruce Waltke (Technical)

Tyndale Old Testament Commentary vol 23a by Bruce Waltke (less technical)

Micah by Jack Riggs

General Resources for the Minor Prophets:

The Minor Prophets by James Montgomery Boice

The Minor Prophets by Charles Feinberg

The Prophets of Israel by Leon Wood

Major Points from the Minor Prophets by John Blanchard

A Survey of Old Testament Introduction by Gleason Archer

Interpreting the Minor Prophets by Robert Chisholm Jr

The Ultimate Priority on Worship by John MacArthur

Knowing God by J.I. Packer