

Message #14**Micah 7:7-13**

It is tough living in this world. If you have any spiritual wits about you at all, you are appalled by what you see and hear taking place in this world every day. Here are headlines I read one morning this week:

- 1) Political leader accused of Election Interference.
- 2) Political leader has taken bribes and needs to be impeached.
- 3) Climate Activists are on Warpath with Fear Mongering Death Warnings.
- 4) Justice Department Intentionally Misleads Congress.
- 5) Spending on Mental Health has risen 53 %.

God's people are sickened by what they see. Things are going on that are not right and if you are committed to God and His word, you see those things clearly.

What you also see if you are committed to God and His word, you are not honored in this world. Not too many care what you think or say. In fact, you at times become the target of all kinds of criticisms and attacks.

In the first verses of Micah 7, Micah described the kind of world in which he was living. There was no righteous fruit anywhere. There were no godly people. There were no upright people. There were no straight men. The world was being governed by godless, ruthless leaders who were corrupt liars and cheaters who took bribes.

The political, judicial and economic world was totally corrupt and these powerful people weaved themselves together. You could not trust anyone to tell you the truth. Micah said you can't trust your neighbor, your friend, your mate, your children and your own family.

For Micah and for anyone rightly related to God and committed to the word of God, the world was a very lonely place to live.

In this passage, Micah gives us a look at how he coped with this. Micah unlocks the key to survival as we live in this world for a while. What Micah says is this:

IN A CORRUPT, EVIL, IMMORAL, GOD MOCKING, GOD HATING, BIBLE HATING WORLD, KEEP LOOKING TO THE LORD AND STAY LOYAL TO THE WORD AND KEEP COMMUNICATING THE TRUTH TO THE WORLD.

Back in WWI, President Theodore Roosevelt really rebuked German Americans who had divided loyalties. He said, "America is not a polyglot boarding house...if a man is an American and something else, he is not an American."

That is what Micah saw. He could not find any who were loyal to God and His word.

Israel was a land that was surrounded by enemies. Assyria and Babylonia were to the north; Egypt was in the south. As he went through Jerusalem, he found the people leading the nations were corrupt. No one was serious about God and His word.

There are four points Micah communicates not only to the people, but to those who were making things difficult for God's people.

COMMUNICATION POINT #1 – What Micah will do. 7:7

We go back to this verse because this is the key to how Micah lived his life.

When you find yourself in a corrupt world you have two options. **You may give into the negative pessimism of most of the people or you may positively trust God.**

Micah wants the people in the world to know how he will invest his days and live his life. Micah could not find any hope or help in this world, so he kept his focus on God.

This is such an important point to grasp. This is the key to survival for Micah and for us. We will not find hope and happiness by focusing on the crud of this world; we will find it by focusing on the creator of this world. Our focus must be on God and on His word.

There are three “wills” Micah personally mentions here in this verse. This is what Micah would do when living in a corrupt world being governed by corrupt leaders. These are not hopes or speculations; these are wills of things Micah will do and things Micah does know:

Fact #1 - Micah will expectantly watch for the LORD. 7:7a

Micah found his coping power in heaven. Micah knew the word of God and he knew about the covenants of God. He knew that God had promised that one day Israel would flourish and receive all of the blessings of God.

Fact #2 - Micah will patiently wait for the God of his salvation. 7:7b

Micah knew that God would not bring him confusion (7:4); but God would bring him salvation. Micah says I cannot trust people on this earth, but I can trust my God.

Fact #3 - Micah will persistently pray to God. 7:7c

Micah knows his God does hear him and God will hear him.

Notice Micah personalizes God. God was Micah's God. He was the God of Micah and he was a prophet of God.

So regardless of how bad things were in the world, he would keep looking to God. This is what Micah would do.

COMMUNICATION POINT #2 – What Micah’s enemies should not do. 7:8

One of the most difficult things to take when we are experiencing some negative things from the hand of God is the arrogant mockery of our enemies. They mock us and laugh at our faith. They mock and laugh at our situation. They mock and laugh at our life.

When we warn them God will settle this soon, they don’t take it seriously.

What they do not realize is that it is a fatal mistake for the enemy of the people of God to rejoice and gloat over the fact that at the present time it does not seem as though God is blessing His people.

It is a fatal mistake for enemies to think they have the upper hand and are getting away with their evil just because God is not instantly doing something about it.

Micah uses a feminine pronoun “me” so he has in mind enemies gloating not just over him, but over Jerusalem and Zion.

When people in power start mocking God fearing, Bible believing, Christ promoting people, they don’t realize what the outcome will ultimately be. God will track them down.

COMMUNICATION POINT #3 – What Micah’s enemies need to know. 7:8b-9

There are two facts the enemies of God’s covenant people need to know:

Fact #1 - Enemies need to know what will happen to God’s people. 7:8-9

God’s people do experience negative things authorized by God.

(Reality #1) - If a child of God falls, he will rise. 7:8b

Take a good look at what is said here because you can expect it to happen. You can expect to see this. At some point, God will get His people out of their miserable circumstances.

(Reality #2) - If a child of God is in darkness, God will be his light. 7:8c

No matter how dark things look for God’s people, the light will shine again. We have God’s word on that.

(Reality #3) - If a child of God seems to be experiencing God's indignation, it is deserved. **7:9a**

This is such an important part to see and learn. **In order for God to bring about His blessings, His people must take responsibility for their sin.** They must face it with honesty and integrity.

People that God will greatly bless realize and admit they have sinned and they deserve negative chastisement. In fact, no one will ever experience God's grace deliverance until one comes to terms with truth about their sin.

What Micah does here after seeing the destitute condition and corruption was to admit we deserve this. He doesn't blame God; he does not question God; he simply says I have sinned and deserve what God is doing.

God's people understand that they deserve the chastisement of God. They know they suffer because of sin. They realize what God is doing. But they also realize what God will do if they face it. They realize that the God who took them into the chastisement can also bring them out of the chastisement.

Micah is not sitting around wondering why negative things hit and saying poor me. He is not sitting around whining and complaining. He acknowledges this is coming from the Sovereign hand of the Sovereign God.

Micah says I am the problem. We are the problem. God often uses wicked powers to punish His own people because they are not putting Him where He needs to be in life.

(Reality #4) - If a child of God is being chastened, he will be brought through it and out of it. **7:9b**

Take a look at what God promises here. He promises to bring His people out of darkness into light.

What enemies of God and His word don't realize is that eventually things will be turned around. God's people will end up on top.

God will do this for His people; He will not do this for His enemies.

Fact #2 - Enemies need to know what God will do to them. **7:10**

There are two realities that enemies of God's people need to know:

(Reality #1) - God will let enemies see His deliverance of His people. **7:10a**

They will see it and they will stand in awe of it. There will be nothing they can do to stop it.

(Reality #2) - God will cause the enemies to be ashamed. 7:10b

They mocked God's people and they mocked God so God says I will raise My people up in front of them and they will be totally and completely ashamed.

They will be ashamed of the fact that they treated God's people so disrespectfully. They will be ashamed of the fact that they promoted evil sinful things that were against God's people and God's word.

They will be totally ashamed of themselves for what they did, what they said and how they lived.

**COMMUNICATION POINT #4 – God's people need to know what God will do for them.
7:10-13**

What is predicted here is a day in which there will be complete restoration.

(Prophetic Fact #1) - God will permit His people to see their enemies trampled. 7:10c

God says not only will I trample your enemies, but I will let you see Me do it.

(Prophetic Fact #2) - God will cause His people to build and expand. 7:11

The land extension will cover a massive amount of land.

(Prophetic Fact #3) - God will bring many nations of the world to honor you. 7:12-13

God says the day of this will be after the Tribulation, in which I have poured out My judgment on the earth for their evil; they will come to you.