

## ***Responding to the Lord in the Growing Crisis (Micah 7)***

### **I. MICAH'S RESPONSE TO SPIRITUAL CRISIS: A PROPHETIC PICTURE (MIC. 7)**

- A. Micah described the spiritual crisis in his day—society was filled with sin and betrayal (7:1-6). The wickedness and betrayal in Micah's day will be surpassed in generation the Lord returns.

***<sup>1</sup>Woe is me!...<sup>2</sup>The faithful man has perished from the earth, and there is no one upright among men...every man hunts his brother...<sup>3</sup>the prince asks for gifts, the judge seeks a bribe, and the great man utters his evil desire; so they scheme together...<sup>6</sup>For son dishonors father, daughter rises against her mother...a man's enemies are the men of his own household.*** (Mic. 7:1-6)

- B. ***The faithful man has perished:*** Micah laments the lack of godly leaders faithful to the Lord in governmental roles or in the public square (7:2-3). He identified the primary leaders who will scheme together—*princes* (government leaders), *judges* (court systems), and *the great men* (leaders in finance, media, social icons, etc.—and seek gifts, bribes, and “pay-offs” from those under them.

- C. Micah warned the people not to trust some of their friends or family members because they might betray them (7:5-6) in order to avoid an economic penalty or to gain an economic advantage (7:3).

***<sup>5</sup>Do not trust in a friend...<sup>6</sup>For son dishonors father, daughter rises against her mother...a man's enemies are the men of his own household.*** (Mic. 7:5-6)

- D. In Mark 13:12, Jesus connected Micah 7:5-6 to the social crisis in the end times and identified standing for the gospel (Mk. 13:9-10) as the main reason for people betraying their families.

***<sup>9</sup>You will be brought before rulers and kings for My sake...<sup>10</sup>The gospel must first be preached to all the nations...<sup>12</sup>Brother will betray brother...children will rise up against parents and cause them to be put to death...<sup>14</sup>When you see the 'abomination of desolation'...flee.*** (Mk. 13:9-14)

### **II. SEVEN RESPONSES TO THE LORD IN THE GROWING CRISIS (MIC. 7:7-20)**

- A. ***Response #1*** is to look to the Lord, pray, and wait on Him to act to fulfill His promises (7:7). We look to the Lord to be our primary source of safety, justice, etc. Our natural response is to “look to” (be preoccupied with) the people who mistreat us, the growing crisis in the culture, etc. When teaching on the end times, Jesus' primary exhortation to His people was to *watch and pray* (Mt. 24:42; 25:13; Mk. 13:9, 33, 34, 35, 37; Lk. 21:36; Rev. 16:15).

***<sup>7</sup>Therefore I will look to the LORD; I will wait for the God of my salvation...*** (Mic. 7:7)

- B. ***Response #2*** is to have confidence in the faithfulness of God's promises even in the face of great darkness, social crisis, pain, set-backs, and personal failures (7:8). He understood that he would be tested with pressures, temptations, and set-backs when the society was being shaken.

***<sup>8</sup>...when I fall, I will arise; when I sit in darkness, the LORD will be a light to me...*** (Mic. 7:8)

1. He was not idealistic in assuming that the pressures in society would not touch his life.
2. ***I will arise:*** Any who set their heart on righteousness will arise, even if they fall seven times.

***<sup>16</sup>For a righteous man may fall seven times and rise again...*** (Prov. 24:16)

- C. **Response #3** is to bear the Lord’s loving discipline without “quitting” our divine assignment (7:9).  
**<sup>9</sup>I will bear the indignation [discipline] of the LORD, because I have sinned against Him, until He pleads my case and executes justice for me...I will see His righteousness.** (Mic. 7:9)
1. While bearing the Lord’s discipline, we engage in the process of often rehearsing our sin, repenting, and making a commitment to embrace Jesus’ leadership in our personal weakness. This process “marks” the heart of His people in a deep way, resulting in genuine change.
  2. Micah did not indulge in self-pity, but humbled himself, seeing the unperceived “fault lines” in his life so that he could grow in love, humility, and obedience—to go deep with God.
  3. The purpose of God’s discipline is to train His people in righteousness (Heb. 12:11).  
**<sup>5</sup>“Do not despise [regard lightly, NAS] the chastening of the LORD, nor be discouraged...<sup>6</sup>For whom the LORD loves He chastens...”<sup>10</sup>He [chastens us] for our profit...<sup>11</sup>It yields the peaceable fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it.** (Heb. 12:5-6, 10-11)
- D. **Response #4** is to acknowledge our sins and respond in humility with repentance (7:9b). Even the most devout are deficient in their love, obedience, humility, gratitude, and trust. It is common to see sin in the culture and especially the sins done against us *much more than* we see sin in our life.  
**<sup>9</sup>I will bear the indignation [discipline] of the LORD, because I have sinned against Him...** (Mic. 7:9)
- E. **Response #5** is to ask the Lord to intervene in power to fulfill His promises (7:14). The Lord answered this prayer by promising Micah that He would show Israel great miracles (7:15)—like the very miracles that He did when He delivered them from Egypt (Ex. 7-12; Jn. 14:12; Rev. 16).  
**<sup>14</sup>Shepherd Your people with Your staff...<sup>15</sup>“As in the days when you came out of...Egypt, I will show them wonders.”<sup>16</sup>The nations shall see and...shall be afraid of the LORD...** (Mic. 7:14-16)
- F. **Response #6** is to worship God for His unique kindness—in freely pardoning our sins (7:18).  
**<sup>18</sup>Who is a God like You, pardoning iniquity...because He delights in mercy...** (Mic. 7:18)
1. The Lord’s people will be overwhelmed with awe and gratitude for His extravagant kindness.
  2. The most excellent way to live is to imitate this kind of kindness.
- G. **Response #7** is to delight in mercy towards others since God delights in mercy over me (7:18).  
**<sup>18</sup>...because He delights in mercy.** **<sup>19</sup>He will have compassion on us...and subdue our iniquities.** (Mic. 7:18-19)
1. The Lord delights in giving mercy to His people—this empowers His people to delight in giving mercy to one another, thus unifying the family of God.
  2. Because we know that He delights in mercy to us, thus we delight in giving mercy to those who fail, even to the ones who have mistreated or failed us (Jas. 2:13).  
**<sup>13</sup>For judgment is without mercy to the one who has shown no mercy. Mercy triumphs over judgment.** (Jas. 2:13)