

Micah: No Better Gospel
Micah 7

He may preach the gospel better than I can, but he cannot preach a better gospel. (James Spurgeon, grandfather of Charles Spurgeon)

Sin's Sadness (vv. 1-6)

- Chapter 7 represents an expression of Jerusalem's guilt, judgment, and hope.

Lady Zion via the voice of the prophet acknowledges her guilt, submits to God's judgment, and opens herself to God's eventual vindication. (Mark Gignilliat)

- Sin brings about:

- Elusive happiness (v. 1)
- Violence. (vv. 2-4)

When Yahweh visits his people in judgment, their cosmos will turn to chaos. (Gignilliat)

- Distrust. (vv. 5-6)

The Sinner's Future (vv. 7-17)

- Micah is not encouraging a glossing over transgression.

The difference between Christians and non-Christians is not that non-Christians sin whereas Christians don't. The difference is found in what side we take in the battle. Christians take God's side against sin, whereas non-Christians take sin's side against God. (Mark Dever)

- The acknowledge of sin, though, leads to hope in God's mercy.

- Satan is "an accuser of the brethren" (Revelation 12:10).
- But Christ is the "answerer" for the brethren.

- Application:

- Do you have great confidence in the gospel?

The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you. (Romans 16:20)

- Do you take seriously, not just your sins, but your Savior?

God does not save those who are only imaginary sinners. Be a sinner, and let your sins be strong [i.e. own your sin], but let your trust in Christ be stronger, and rejoice in Christ who is the victor over sin, death, and the world.

We will commit sins while we are here, for this life is not a place where justice resides. We, however, says Peter, are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth where

justice will reign. It is enough that... we have recognized the Lamb who takes away the sin of the world. No sin can separate us from Him... Do you think such an exalted Lamb paid merely a small price with a meager sacrifice for our sins? Pray hard [i.e. trust Christ], for you are quite a sinner. (Martin Luther)

Sin's Conqueror (vv. 18-20)

- Why would God do show this kind of mercy?
 - Micah's very name is a key to the book and the message.
 - Micah's name means, "Who is like God?"
- The last verses of the book (vv. 18-20) answer the question of Micah's name.
 - Micah leads us back to the book of Exodus.

The LORD descended in the cloud and stood with him there, and proclaimed the name of the LORD. ⁶ The LORD passed before him and proclaimed, "The LORD, the LORD, a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness, ⁷ keeping steadfast love for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, but who will by no means clear the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children and the children's children, to the third and the fourth generation. (Exodus 34:5-7)

- God is not a God who sweeps sin under the rug, but He is a God who loves to forgive.

Have I any pleasure in the death of the wicked, declares the Lord GOD, and not rather that he should turn from his way and live? (Ezekiel 18:23)

"O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often would I have gathered your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing! (Matthew 23:37)

This is good, and it is pleasing in the sight of God our Savior, ⁴ who desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. (1 Timothy 2:3-4)

- Application:
 - Do you have big thoughts of God?
 - Do you believe that God's heart is big with grace and forgiveness?
 - Do you believe that God is miserly with mercy?
 - Are you looking to the cross to understand this God?
 - Don't you want to serve this God with all your heart?