

Micah 7:1-8 “The Disappearance of Godliness”

For the Children: There are a lot of bad things happening in the world around us. Perhaps you hear your parents talking about these things. Sometimes bad things also happen in churches. It is especially sad when evil is found among God’s people. It is OK to be sad about such things, but we must bring our sadness to the Lord. We can pray to Him, asking for His help. We can turn to His Word, which tells us that He will deal with the wicked in His own time. It also tells us that He gives light and salvation to His children, even as we walk in the middle of a world filled with sin. We know that He hears the prayers of His children and does not ignore our cry for help. **Questions:** What made Micah sad? What kind of things should God’s children be sad about? What does it mean to “turn to the Lord” and how does that help?

Introduction:

First Point: Woe Is Me!

- 1) An Expression of Grief: “Woe is me!” expresses grief. See Jer. 10:19. The grief is over the lack of godliness in the land – as well as the abundance of evil. The grief is compared to a man craving food, who finds no grapes or figs on vine or tree. See Mt. 21:18-22.
- 2) No *Chesed* Men: The word for “godly” in v. 2 is *chesed*, referring to loyalty to God and love and compassion to one’s neighbour. Remember, this is God’s chief “requirement” (6:8).
- 3) The Abundance of Evil: On the other hand, evil was all too common (vss. 2b-6). There was a “pandemic” of violence and corruption. Many people had become “experts” in doing evil. The family was breaking down and it was hard to trust anyone, even close family-members.
- 4) A Comparison with Today: This sounds very much like our society. But remember, this was the OT church! That made it even harder for Micah to bear. He had laboured long for repentance. There was some relief under Hezekiah, but the repentance was not firmly rooted in the people. They quickly turned to even greater evil under Manasseh.
- 5) Appropriate Grief: It is appropriate for believers to grieve over deformation of the church (and the degeneration of society). See Ps14 and Lk. 19:41-44). It grieves us to see God’s Name profaned and His church suffering harm. It reflects the Lord’s attitude to such things (Ps. 78:40; Is. 63:10; Eph. 4:30).

Second Point: But as for Me!

- 1) Turning to the Lord: However, grief over the state of the church and society should cause us to turn to the Lord. That turning-point is seen in v. 7 – whatever others may do, Micah will look to the Lord. See also Ps. 31:14 and Hab. 3:17-19.
- 2) Waiting Expectantly: When we turn to the Lord, we can experience joy and a sense of expectancy. For we know that the Lord hears the cries of His people (v. 7b). We also know that He will eventually deal with the wicked (v. 4b). In addition, we know the Lord, Who is our salvation and light (vss. 7, 8).
- 3) A Matter of Focus: If we focus on the darkness that surrounds us, we may wear ourselves down with pessimism and grief. We need to keep our main focus on the Lord – though we also need to be aware of the problems around us so that we can pray about them and warn others of the dangers and work out a proper response on our part, If we do not keep the proper focus, our waiting may involve impatience, rather than hope and joy.

Conclusion:

