

July 6, 2014 Sermon Application handout
"At the Bottom of the Ocean"
Micah 7:8-20

I. Introduction

1. Before you begin, go to the Lord in prayer. Thank God for his incredible forgiveness toward you a sinner. Praise Him that because of Christ, there is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.
2. Review Micah 7:1-7. How does Micah begin this chapter? What observation does Micah make about the godly person in the land? How does Micah resolve this issue? Where does he decide to place his confidence?

II. A Future Promise (Micah 7:8-17)

3. Read Micah 7:8-11. Has the tone changed from the previous context? Is Micah speaking about himself? Do the pronouns change at any point? Who does it seem Micah is speaking for?
4. According to verse 9, what is different about the attitude of the people in Judah? Does Micah seem to be referring to the past, present, or future? How do you know?
5. What is the enemy doing to Israel in verse 10-11? How will Judah respond in light of this (v. 11)? What will happen to their enemy according to verses 11-13?

6. As Micah reflects and writes about the restoration, he remembers what he has already written in Micah 2:12 and 5:4; that God would shepherd His people. According to verses 14-15, what is the extent of God's leading Israel? What will He show them? How might this be a comfort those who were suffering?

7. Read and reflect upon Psalm 23. List out ways God is a Shepherd to His people. How does this bring comfort to your own soul when you face trial and hardship?

8. What does God assure Israel of in verses 16-17? What will God bring when Israel is restored (cf. Micah 5:15)? How might this news of God's future promise to Israel bring them hope? How does reading Micah's confidence in God's future promises give you hope in your own times of discouragement?

9. One important way to pull out of discouragement is to take our eyes off of what is in front of us and place them on what is ahead. Read Colossians 3:1-4—what are some great future promises listed for the believer in this passage that gives hope and encouragement? Where is Paul trying to direct the reader's focus? Where is the believer's life truly hidden? Who does God really see when He sees the believer? What is their true identity?

10. What about you? How do you pull yourself out of your own discouragement? List out practical ways you can “seek and set your mind on the things above?” How does knowing and believing that Jesus will be coming back give you hope when you feel hopeless?

III. A Fantastic Realization (Micah 7:18-20)

11. How does Micah continue bringing hope to the people of Israel in Micah 7:18? What is his sudden declaration? What is his great confidence?
12. Read verse 18-19 carefully and contemplatively. Then list out all the beautiful facets of God’s forgiveness. What does Micah call sin and how does God deal with it? What does God take great delight in (cf. Ps. 103:8)?
13. In addition to pardoning sin, what does God do with rebellious acts? What miracle does this remind you of from the Old Testament does this remind you of (cf. EX. 15:11)?
14. Not only does God pardon our sin, overlook our rebellious acts, but verse 18 says he does not retain His anger forever. He will have compassion on us. God wants to forgive! As you ponder these great truths, are you overwhelmed with gratitude? Beloved you serve the kind of God who does not scowl at you, have fits of bitterness toward you, or even retain his anger? You can come to him as 1 John 1:9 says and confess your sin to Him—God takes great pleasure in forgiving you and showing you His mercy (cf. Ps. 103;8). In what way does this give you hope?

15. We are also reminded from verse 19, that God's forgiveness is transformative. Not only does he forgive sin but he defeats it! Read Romans 6:14 and list out what Micah means by God 'will tread our iniquities under foot'. What is true of every true believer? How are they changed from inside out?
16. Finally, we are reminded by Micah that God's forgiveness is permanent. He says in verse 19, "Yes, You (God) will cast all their sins into the depths of the sea." Wow! Your sins are gone, they have been plunged into the depths of the ocean. Read Psalm 103:12; Isaiah 1:18; 38:7, Colossians 2:13. What are some additional wonderful truths you learn about God's permanent forgiveness if you have truly recognized you are a sinner, have confessed your sin to Christ, and repented?
17. If you are not a believer and you are fearful to go before God to confess and repent of your sin—don't be!! God is eager and ready to forgive you? Go to the one who takes away the guilt of sin, removes the punishment for sin and the power of sin (cf. Rom. 6:14-18).

IV. I Forgive You

18. Read the following passages and list out reasons why we are to be a forgiving people. Who are we imitating when we forgive? What are the dangers of not extending forgiveness? What does Jesus say you are to do in light of the offense? How does Paul reiterate that truth? Who do you need to forgive today from the heart? If you are struggling to forgive; what do you believe is truly hindering you? Pray and ask God to help you to forgive as He forgives.
- Matthew 18:21-35
 - Colossians 3:13
 - Ephesians 4:31-5:1

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